Labor -1937

Unions, Strikes, etc.

Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

This stamp gotten out by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Arkansas.

For information about this Union, see- 1937-38 Negro Year Book. pp 33-41.

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Sessions were held at the Memphis Trades and Labor Council's Labor Temple, and in the colored Masonic Temple on Beale and Fourth.

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He urged his hearers to "work with the people of the South." Insisting that the immediate concern of the workers whom they represented was "not social equality, but a chance to make a livin livings, get a square deal in court." He stated further that "We have to work, but nobody is going to boss us around." The Christian spirit of these white folks (attending white delegates) makes them able to stand criticism and persecution from their own race. We should stick with them and "stick with the and."

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Methods of how to enforce this resolution against the opposition of many plantation owners of this area who have set a 75 cents rate, were the further concern of H. L. Mitchell and J. R. Butler, secretary and president of the now merged STFU, as well as of rank and file members.

The convention was scheduled to conclude at 2:30 p. m., Sunday with the address of Aubrey Williams.

The states represented included Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

It was estimated that the attendance was approximately 800.

Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

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Southern Tenant Farmers' Union Not Washed Away

To The Commercial Appeal:

One of your readers, whose self-conscious malice compels him to write under the assumed name of "Curious," asks if it is true that the flood has washed away the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. While we cannot hope to eliminate the malice of the questioner, we can remove the ignorance.

Instead of being washed away by the flood, the union has increased its membership by reason of the fact that new thousands have been reached in the refugee camps by union members.

"Curious" wishes to know also if the S. T. F. U. has been doing relief work. The fact is that the union does not wait for disasters of nature to administer relief. It carries on relief work at all times by seeking to protect men and women from the hardships occasioned not only by the ruthlessness of nature but also of man.

It may interest "Curious" to know that the national office of the union, here in Memphis, has served as a clearing house for refugees, and its representatives, equipped with Red Cross credentials, have aided many in co-operation with the authorities.

Ordinarily, curiosity is a virtue, but there is that famous malicious curiosity which killed the cat.

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TENANT FARMERS UNION DRIVE TO START IN TEXAS

A drive to organize the Texas tenant farmers will be launched soon according to a statement made by Howard Kester, an official of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Mr. Kester, a member of the advisory board of the union spoke in Houston in interest of the league for democracy, declared that it was necessary for the farm people to be organized to keep up the standard of living, not only in their industries, but in the industrial towns as well.

If the farm people who make 50c a day are drawn to industries at $10 a week, it lowers the standard of industry. If the tenant farmers are kept on the farm at a decent wage, then the standard of farm life is raised without taking these people in competition with industry.

Mr. Kester told of the rough sailing the tenant farmers union has had. He said that at one point last year he stood before a group of "enraged" planters in Arkansas, a rope dangling before his eys while the planters debated whether to string him up or send him back to his native state. The Tenant Farmers Union's two strikes in Tennessee and Arkansas have caused wages to be raised and maintained, the speaker stated. Mr. Kester stated that the organization drive would start first in the Rio Grande Valley. In this section of Texas the farmers depend upon the Mexican labor. It is reported that the Communists have a strong following among the Mexican workers.

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Sometime ago a committee was appointed by a church organization to study the tenant farmers' problems of the South and the activities of the Tenant Farmers Union. The committee reported that the tenant farmers' problems and union were a "powder keg" of the South. It was also pointed out that John L. Lewis' Committee on Industrial Organization is backing the movement to organize the farmers regardless of race or color.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
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A Pamphlet Prompts Questions

A pamphlet comes from the "Workers' Defense League, 119 East 19th Street, New York, N. Y." Under the address is printed: "The Workers' Defense League is the authorized defense agency of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union." The pamphlet is entitled "The Disinherited Speak," and its contents are letters from semi-literate people telling of the "oppressions" and "outrages" of their Southern landlords and employers.

From the announcement on the back of the pamphlet we quote:

"The Southern Farmers' Union in the three years of its militant existence (note the word "militant") has established itself as the dominant labor organization in the Southwest. From its small beginnings it has grown to include more than 30,000 members in six states of the 'cotton belt' . . .

"But the more important part of the Union's job has just begun—that of 100 per cent union organization of the cotton tenant farmers, sharecroppers and day laborers. The Union recognizes the significance of this—a twofold significance apart from the benefits of mutual organization. FIRST (we use capital letters), THE FORMATION OF A NEW TRADITION IN THE SOUTH—INTERRACIAL TOLERANCE; FOR THE FIRST TIME AN IMPORTANT SOUTHERN ORGANIZATION HAS DRAWN NO COLOR LINE IN ITS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIVITIES. SECONDLY, A STRONG UNION IS NECESSARY TO FIGHT THE LAW OF THE PLANTER AND THE RIDING BOSS—THE LAW THAT KNOWS NO STATUS OR CONSTITUTION BUT ONLY REVOLVERS AND WHIPS."

The announcement concludes with an appeal for contributions of money—and, mark, all this comes from New York city. In the pamphlet are twenty-nine pages, thirty-seven letters.

The pamphlet did not come to The News and Courier, but to the home address of the writer of this article. Presumably, therefore, it is being circulated throughout the South.

This Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has the encouragement of Socialists, the "Liberals," of the North, that endorse the John Lewis unions. It is fair to say that a "class party" cannot hope for power in the South if it draw the color line, and from their point of view they are right and logical.

Do you South Carolina farmers think that this that it is the "negro hater." That charge is ridiculous, though it tenants' union is without sympathy of the Perkins, does believe in the racial separation that now exists. Farley, Vann, Mitchell, Rainey Democratic party? So The News and Courier is content this morning We ask the question and leave it to you to answer for to tell its readers what is going on, and to offer no yourselves. comment.

Do you white Southern farmers and planters imagine that this "militant union" will not invade South Carolina, with its negro population of 800,000? We leave that question with you.

Do you white cotton mill workers in South Carolina believe that with a powerful union drawing no color line established in the South no effort will be made to break down race separation in the cotton mills? We leave that question with you, to whom it is more important than to anybody else.

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Do you South Carolina farmers think that this tenants' union is without sympathy of the Perkins, Farley, Vann, Mitchell, Rainey Democratic party? We ask the question and leave it to you to answer for yourselves.

Do you white Southern farmers and planters imagine that this "militant union" will not invade South Carolina, with its negro population of 800,000? We leave that question with you.

Do you white cotton mill workers in South Carolina believe that with a powerful union drawing no color line established in the South no effort will be made to break down race separation in the cotton mills? We leave that question with you, to whom it is more important than to anybody else.

Numerous warnings on this general line by The News and Courier have met with no other reply than that it is trying to stir race antagonism, that it is a "negro hater." That charge is ridiculous, though it does believe in the racial separation that now exists. The News and Courier is content this morning to tell its readers what is going on, and to offer no comment.

URGE TENANT UNION TO JOIN WITH CIO

MUSKOGEE, Okla., June 17.—(ANP)—Affiliation with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union was recommended in a unanimous vote Friday by the executive board of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Industrial Union Council, an affiliate of the CIO.

J. R. Butler of Memphis, president of the interracial union which has for the first time banded together colored and white tenant farmers and sharecroppers, asked a CIO charter for the organization which has 25,000 members. The council will recommend to John L. Lewis that the charter be granted.

TENANT COUNCIL MEETS

Farm Union Leaders to Decide on Convention Representation

Whether the Southern Tenant Farmers Union shall send delegates to a convention at Denver July 9-11 which plans for an international union of agricultural workers will be launched, will be discussed at a meeting of the 12 members of the executive council which will begin today and continue through Sunday.

The meeting will be held "in Memphis or some place near by," according to J. R. Butler, president of the union, who declined to reveal the exact location. Mr. Butler was assisted in plans for the conference by H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary.

Suggestions that the tenant union affiliate with the C.I.O. also will be discussed, according to Mr. Butler, who expressed himself as favorable to this plan if S. T. F. U. autonomy could be retained. Heretofore, the union, which claims a membership of 35,000, has received official backing from the American Federation of Labor.

TENANT FARM UNION TO SEND DELEGATES

Seven Will Attend Denver Agriculture Conference

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union will send seven delegates to the national agricultural workers' conference in Denver next month and will ask the conference to seek affiliation with John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization, H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary, said yesterday.

The executive council at a meeting at headquarters, 2527 Broad, went on record as favoring C. I. O. affiliation, but such a move has not been presented to a membership meeting. The council met over the week end.

Delegates to the Denver meeting on July 9-11 will be J. R. Butler, president; A. B. McKinney, vice president, and Mr. Mitchell, all of Memphis; Otis L. Sweeden, of Muskogee, Okla.; O. H. Whitfield, of Charleston, Mo.; W. L. Blackstone, of Wynne, and D. A. Griffin, of McCrory, Ark.

The union will ask the conference for jurisdiction over all farm labor in the south and southwest, Mr. Mitchell said. A resolution urging revision of the Wagner Act to cover all farm labor will be presented. Another will propose a revision of the anti-lynching bill. Plans for an intensive three months' organization drive were discussed at the council meeting here.

STUDENT DENIED BED AT HOME FOR GIRLS

College Junior Declares She Was 'Kicked Out'

HERE TO STUDY TENANCY

Charge Branded Untrue By W. and Y. W. C. A. Matron —Victim Claims She Was Ousted As 'Unionist'

An 18-year-old college junior who came to Memphis from the Delta Co-Operative Farm at Hillhouse, Miss., to study Southern Tenant Farmers Union operation did not sleep at the W. and Y. W. C. A. Home at 291 South Second Wednesday night.

She did not sleep there because:

"I was kicked out when I told the matron what I was doing in Memphis," said Miss Hazel Whitman of Brooklyn.

"She told me it was none of my business when I asked her what she did, and as we never admit girls to our dormitories unless we know their business, I simply refused her admittance," said Mrs. Mary B. Stanfield, superintendent.

Ate Dinner at Home

Miss Whitman ate dinner at the home and during the meal discussed "calmly" with other girls the tenant farmer situation, she said. After dinner, she applied to Mrs. Stanfield for a room and told the superintendent why she was in Memphis, she said.

"So you're a unionist. Then we have no place for you here," Miss Whitman said she was told by Mrs. Stanfield. Mrs. Stanfield denied accusing Miss Whitman of being a unionist.

"I explained to her I had no place to sleep and asked if she would throw a little girl out of the home," said Miss Whitman. "Isn't this a Christian home and is it the Christian spirit to refuse me a bed, I asked her. She was quite rude and wouldn't listen, even when I insisted I had not tried to organize the girls. I told her I was not a member of any union but was studying to major in economics."

Affairs Termed "Routine"

Miss Whitman was seeking publicity, she was rude and she acted in a dramatic manner when a bed was refused her, Mrs. Stanfield said.

"The whole affair was simply routine to me," said Mrs. Stanfield. "When the girl would not answer questions I had no choice. That is our rule and it applies to every girl who sleeps here. I heard her tell a Mr. Mitchell over the phone, after we refused her admittance, that, 'I've been kicked out a second time. Come down and get me.'"

Miss Whitman denied this and said she had never been put out of any place.

Following the incident, Mrs. Stanfield said she called Mrs. Edgar Lee, home board president, but she was out of town. The affair will be reported on her return, Mrs. Stanfield said.

(The W. and Y. W. C. A. Home and the Y. W. C. A. have no connections).

Miss Whitman slept with Miss Evelyn Smith, secretary of the S. T. F. U., after she left the W. and Y. W. C. A. She will remain here through Saturday before returning to Hillhouse. Miss Whitman attended Middlebury College in Vermont last year and will enter University of Chicago this Fall.

WPA OFFICIAL HITS ECONOMICS IN DIXIE

Tenancy Held Lineal Descendant of Slavery.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 26.—(AP) Aubrey Williams, deputy administrator of the WPA, told the Southern Tenant Farmers Union convention delegates today that their handicaps came, not from the depression, but from a long-standing economic system and a firmly established pattern of social traditions and customs.

After reciting the ills suffered in recent years by all agricultural sections, he declared, "in the south since the Civil War we have had the peculiar institution of tenancy, the direct lineal descendant of slavery."

Says Home 'Kicked' Her Out

"Kicked out" and refused a bed Wednesday night at the W. and Y. W. C. A. Home at 291 South Second, because she was studying tenant farmer problems, was the charge made by Miss Hazel Whitman (left), 18-year-old college girl of Brooklyn, N. Y. Miss Whitman said she was interested in Southern Tenant Farmers Union operations in connection with her college course, and had been working with Miss Evelyn Smith (right), Union secretary. Her charges were denied by officials of the home.

—Staff Photo by Elliott

Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

Labor—1937

Unions, Strikes, etc.

TENANT UNION ADOPTS $1 AS PICKING PRICE

Commenced
appeal

Group In Convention Here Also Votes Affiliation With C. I. O.

9-25-37

Minimum cotton picking wages of $1 per hundred pounds and affiliation with the C. I. O. were unanimously voted yesterday by 130 delegates from Southern states at a special meeting of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union at the negro Masonic Hall.

Memphis

The wage and affiliation questions concluded the one-day meeting which was featured at the morning session by Col. Lawrence Westbrook, special investigator for the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, who spoke on "The World Cotton Market and the Farm Laborer."

Diagnoses Sought

Loss of a large part of the world market for cotton and the threatened loss of the entire market, not the low price of cotton, is the South's great problem, Colonel Westbrook said. The industry as a whole from the tenant farmer to the cotton buyer must concentrate on a diagnosis to cure this evil, he said.

The S. T. F. U. delegates will be seated at the Masonic (negro) Hall this morning at the district meeting of the C. I. O.'s United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, with whom they voted yesterday to affiliate. More than 200 delegates are expected, according to J. R. Butler, president of the S. T. F. U.

Delegates Speak

High light of the S. T. F. U. meeting was the afternoon devoted to talks from the floor by delegates while the committees were in executive session to consider the wage and C. I. O. affiliation proposals. The meeting was predominantly negro, only a handful of delegates and officers representing the white union members.

One negro delegate's question, "will joining the C. I. O. nol prosse the S. T. F. U. name" brought immediate insistence from other delegates that the name be retained if affiliation were voted. The question of increased dues and financial support through C. I. O. affiliation were other problems that only long debate settled in the delegates' minds.

Aid Is Promised

Donald Henderson, president of the U. C. A. P. A. W., who will preside at the district meeting today, explained the attitude of his organization in seeking S. T. F. U. affiliation.

"We will do all we can to strengthen, not weaken, your union if you join us," he said. "Whatever recommendations the S. T. F. U. makes to our union we will attempt to follow for the preservation of your strength. We will not consider your affiliation a chance to enrich our coffers but your money will come back to the Southern regions to aid in your fight. All charters issued to locals of the S. T. F. U. will be issued in your union's name. The S. T. F. U will not lose its identity."

9-25-37

Delegates Grow Jubilant

Support of the C. I. O. affiliation by delegates worked them up to an enthusiastic acceptance of the question when the vote was taken. Talks were frequently interspersed with "amens," "right, brother," and "ain't it so" and at one point the meeting broke into song led by the delegate holding the floor. Delegates represented locals in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas Oklahoma, Missouri and North Carolina.

Enthusiasm was rampant following a talk by Howard Kester, author of "Revolt Among the Share-Croppers" in which he said he had voted against affiliation in committee meeting but would continue to suport the S. T. F. U. if they overrode his opinion.

"The S. T. F. U. has struggled through blood to achieve freedom of the most exploited agricultural worker in this country," he said "It has not only succeeded in doing this but for the first time an organization has united white and black workers."

The district meeting tomorrow afternoon at the Labor Temple will hear a talk by Aubrey Williams, assistant WPA administrator.

Tenant Farmers Plan Convention

Black Dispatch

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 16 (ANP)—A special convention of the interracial Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, to decide upon affiliation with the new International union of Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America and the C. I. O., has been set for Sept. 24, it has been announced by H. L. Mitchell, secretary.

If the delegates vote to join the International and the C. I. O., the tenant farmers' union will go immediately into the Midsouth district convention of the International, to be held Sept. 25 and 26, where the union will hold a majority.

9-18-37

The International was formed at the convention from July 9-12 which marked the beginning of solidarity between agricultural and industrial workers and immediately voted, to join the C. I. O. The tenant group, through its executive committee, signed the call for this convention and is helping build the larger organization. J. R. Butler, president, is vice president of the International and three others were placed on the executive board.

The Southern Tenant Farmers union is remembered for its cotton choppers' strike of May, 193

FARMERS TO DECIDE ON CIO MOVE

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The Southern Tenant Farmers' union is remembered for its cotton choppers' strike of May, 1936, and the national attention focused on Arkansas because of planter and official violence.

Tenant Farm Head Attacked In Courthouse

Daily Worker

Mob Mercilessly Beats Butler During Trial of Organizer

9-21-37

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 20.—J. R. Butler, President of Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, was a victim of a mob attack in the St. Francis County Court house today. E. F. Bunch, prominent planter and deputy sheriff of Forrest City led the mob while Campbell, the County Sheriff, and State Ranger Morris looked on.

Henry Kirby

Butler was attending the trial of Melvin Swinea, union organizer, who was being arraigned on a framed up charge growing out of a business deal made in 1935.

Swinea had been active in securing higher wages for cotton pickers, contracting with distant planters for labor at much higher wages than was paid by local plantations.

When word reached union headquarters in Memphis, H. L. Mitchell, Secretary, wired Governor Carl Bailey at Little Rock. He was assured later in a telephone conversation with the Governor that the state of Arkansas would act promptly in this case and, if necessary to protect civil liberty in St. Francis County, would invoke martial law.

In Memphis union officials moved swiftly instructing attorneys to prepare civil suits in the United States Court against Sheriff J. C. Campbell and E. F. Bunch, his deputy and other planters taking part in the attack on the union president.

This outbreak of violence is only a part of a series of attacks upon union members and organizers. In Carruthersville, Missouri, two days ago T. H. McConnell, local secretary, was beaten up by a band of planters while on the streets of the town. A similar attack was made upon a group of union members leaving a meeting held by the Cooter, Missouri, Local of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

ATLANTA MINISTER MAKES PLEA FOR HOUSE SERVANTS

Claims Many Seldom See Their Children Awake — Most of Them Work Long, Extra Hours Without Pay — Suggests Training School for These Workers.

By REV. J. RAYMOND HENDERSON
Minister In Wheat Street Baptist Church

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 7—The so-called New Deal has remembered in one way or another every class of workers except the domestic servant. Inasmuch as the great bulk of these are members of the Negro group, it is of vital interest to Negroes that someone shall think in terms of the "forgotten woman."

In other parts of the country domestics are beginning upon a small scale to organize for better wages and shorter hours. It is not totally inconceivable that here in the South and a similar movement may ere long get under way.

The way of the domestic is hard. I am of the honest opinion that if many fair-minded white employers but knew the lot of these people, their own sense of justice would assert itself in the behalf of this group without being ultimately forced so to do by organized labor.

They work long hours, seldom less than twelve hours per day. They work often over time, and I am informed that seldom do they receive extra pay for this extra work. What do these long hours mean? They mean absence from home save one afternoon per week, all the while except at night. Some women seldom see their small children awake. They leave mornings before they awake and return home at night when they are abed. It means no time for husband and wife and children to cultivate the friendship of each other. It often spells ruin to family ties. Further, it means virtual slavery and monotony for the servants themselves, with no time for recreation or amusement except time taken from the much needed rest period.

They receive miserable wages. Of course some receive a fair wage, but so many receive such a pittance that the average is certainly not more than $5.00 per week for them as a class of laborers. Working 84 hours per week for $5.00 gives them less than 6c per hour. There is no other class of laborers in American life who receive so little for so much labor. What does this mean? For one thing it means that deducting $1.05 per week for car fare, they have a balance of but $3.95. It means living in low rent areas amid unsanitary conditions. It means undernourished children. It means increased juvenile delinquency and adult criminality bred of poverty. It means sickness and disease and many days loss from work during the year due to illness.

Most white people have never seen the streets upon which their servants live, to say nothing of the homes out of which they come. I venture the assertion that if they could but see the kind of homes so many domestics are forced to live, they would do one of two things; either have no servant at all or pay such a wage as to insure more decent living quarters for these people who come so intimately into contact with them.

John L. Lewis is headed South. Already the C. I. O. is busy all over the South, in Georgia, and right here in Atlanta. It may be a long time off; it may come with great difficulty due to obvious barriers, but organization of two classes of workers, largely Negroid, is bound to come: namely, laundry workers and the domestic servant. Organized labor in New York, Chicago, etc., can tie up the cities' milk supply, causing untold suffering to invalids and babies. Organized labor can and will keep Negro cooks and maids away from white homes unless white people themselves, in friendly cooperation with Negroes, observe the sign of the times and begin doing something about this problem.

I am, therefore, earnestly appealing to white groups like Women's Clubs, etc., to take this question under advisement. Some kind of organization of the "Servants in the House" should be formed. It should sincerely face the question of long hours with small pay, should increase pay to a minimum of certainly not less than $1.00 per day, with extra pay for over time. It should insist upon a physical examination of its members, examination to be paid for by the employee. It should provide an adequate training school for servants in order to increase their efficiency.

This group is silent, but suffers much. It is for their sakes, many of whom are members of the church in which God has placed me as under shepherd, that I appeal to white people and to their Christian consciences.

Labor-1937
Unions, Strikes, etc.

Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN C. I. O.; AWAITING STEEL MERGER

MINORITY REPORT OF ORGANIZATION SAYS CIVIL LIBERTIES RULES NOT ADEQUATE

Has 30,000 Members in Six States

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Apr. 29.—(ANP)—More than 30,000 members in six Southern states of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union are hopeful that as soon as John L. Lewis is through with his C. I. O. organization work in steel, coal, and the auto industry, he will turn his attention to bringing sharecroppers and tenant farmers into his union. While the American Federation of Labor has lent a sympathetic ear to the tenant union's proposals, officials say they do not expect much help from that source.

H. L. Mitchell, Tenant Farmers' secretary, with headquarters here in Memphis, and Gardiner Jackson, chairman of the national committee for rural and social planning, see a greater future for the tenants under the Lewis C.I.O. banner. At a recent convention of the union, Chairman Jackson declared: "My guess is, that if he succeeds in organizing the steel workers, auto workers, etc., he will turn his attention to the rural workers."

In a minority report to the convention, and referring to territorism, W. L. Blackstone, representative of the Tenant Farmers Union of President Roosevelt's special committee on farm tenancy, declared: "The section on civil liberties is not adequate. As those who have been beaten and terrorized . . . and forced to flee for our lives . . . in our struggle to pull ourselves out of our slough and misery, we know that a few words from responsible Federal officials in behalf of our constitutional civil rights would have helped in our battles, and will help in the one we know are yet to come."

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
May 10, 1937

Farmers And The Color Line

WE are indebted to The Charleston News and Courier for the bold front-page manner in which it publishes parts of a pamphlet from the "Workers' Defense League," a New York organization which proclaims that it "is the authorized defense agency of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union." The pamphlet is entitled "The Disinherited Speak," and from it we quote:

"The Southern Farmers' Union in the three years of its militant existence has established itself as the dominant labor organization in the Southwest. From its small beginnings it has grown to include more than 30,000 members in the six states of the 'cotton belt' . . . .

"But the most important part of the Union's job has just begun—that of 100 per cent union organization of the cotton tenant farmers, sharecroppers and day laborers. The Union recognizes the significance of this—a twofold significance apart from the benefits of mutual organization. First, the formation of a new tradition in the South—interracial tolerance; for the first time an important Southern organization has drawn no color line in its membership requirements and activities. Secondly, a strong union is necessary to fight the law of the planter and the riding boss—the law that knows no status or constitution but only revolvers and whips."

It is significant that this pamphlet, coming out of New York, concludes with an appeal for contributions of money.

No one can brand such newspapers as The Charleston News and Courier as "negro haters" for bringing these things before the public, unless they themselves oppose the rule of the whites in the South.

It is obvious, as the Charleston editor points out, that the Socialists and "Liberals" of the North cannot hope for a "class party" with power in the South if they draw the color line, and in advocating "interracial tolerance", they are advocating an unlimited franchise.

These things deserve our earnest consideration and it will do us no harm to ascertain just how much sympathy the Southern Farmers' Union has won from such individuals as Jim Farley, Frances Perkins, Robert Wagner, Arthur Mitchell, the negro congressman from Chicago, and Robert L. Vann, the negro publisher from Pittsburgh—all of them good and honest Democrats under the New Order.

TROUBLE FLARES OVER FARM UNION CIRCULAR

Sheriff Explains Altercation At Forrest City

9-18-37

LEADER CHARGES ATTACK

J. R. Butler Claims He Was Beaten While In Courthouse —Officer Says 'Several Blows' Were Passed

Special to The Commercial Appeal

FORREST CITY, Ark., Sept. 17.—Sheriff J. M. Campbell said here tonight that a charge by J. R. Butler, president of the Southeast Tenant Farmers' Union, that he was attacked here this afternoon followed an altercation between Butler and Dr. W. A. Winter. St. Francis County health officer, and farm operator, in the sourthouse over distribution of union literature.

The sheriff said Dr. Winter claimed Butler kicked at him and that a few blows were passed. Later, in Memphis, Butler charged he had been "ganged."

Sheriff Intervened

"I was on the lower floor of the sourtroom when someone sent for me and said a fight was going on,' the sheriff said. "As I started to escort Butler out and get him away from the men he was arguing with, someone jerked me away from him and a blow might have been passed then. Then someone pushed him out of the front steps," the sheriff said. "I took him on to his car."

The argumetn over the union literature, the sheriff said, was caused by letters said to have been sent out by the nion to planters and tenants in this area entitled "labor unions and the law" in which it was said "labor is protected by the law and has a right to organize."

Union Head Sends Wire

Shortly after Butler charged he was beaten, the sheriff received a wire from H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary of the union, from Memphis, which read:

"The Southern Tenant Farmers Union holds you responsible for an attack by planters on J. R. Butler, its president, today. You are a sworn peace officer and will be held accountable for this crime in United States Court."

Commenting on Butler's charge that he was "beaten by several men, including two plantation operators with commissions as special deputies," Sheriff Campbell said "it is customary for the sheriff's office to commission planters when they ask to be commissioned." They want it for protection on their plantations, he said.

Claims Feeling Is High

E. F. Bunch, operator of the Graham farm four miles southeast of here, was reported to have separated Dr. Winter and Butler when the first blows were strick. Bunch followed the sheriff and Butler to the latter's automobile after the fight, the sheriff said.

Butler said feeling against the union is bitter among planters around Forrest City because of its efforts to furnish cotton pickers for a planter near Hughes willing to pay $1 per nundred pounds against the 75 cents he said generally was offered here.

Attended Hearing

Butler attended a hearing today at which Melvin Swinea, 30, an organizer, was given a year in prison on a larceny charge, growing out of the theft of a mule by another man. Swinea, Butler said, contends he bought the mule from the man in good faith and obtained a bill of sale.

Butler exhibited a cut lip at Memphis. He said his hearing was affected by a blow on the ear. He claimed he was struck three times and "knocked down the stairs."

Bailey Is Asked To Probe Incident

H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, said last night he had appealed to Governor Carl E. Bailey of Arkansas to investigate the alleged beating of J. R. Butler union president, yesterday at Forrest City.

In reply to a telegram in which Mr. Mitchell asked the Governor, "won't you act immediately to prevent further mob violence and bring these men to justice," he said Governor Bailey promised to investigate the case.

Attorneys for the union, Mr Mitchell said, have been instructed to bring civil suits against the alleged attackers of Butler.

Farm Bill To Benefit Farmer Is Urged by South Carolinian

Southern congressmen were urged yesterday by J. Roy Jones, Commissioner of Agriculture of South Carolina, to get together a representative group from the cotton producer and Federal Government for a tremendous number of unemployed.

"Assurance to the cotton producer of a fair price for his product."

Southern representatives in Congress," he said.

Attending the Southern Tenant Farmers Union meeting here, Commissioner Jones outlined a seven-point plan designed to give the Southern farmers parity purchasing power with other sections and guarantee of our economic future.

The bill would provide:

"Provisions for equalizing the varied purchasing power which now exists between the Southern farmer and other sections of the United States:

"A bill reflecting the unified sentiments of all those interested in

"A direct subsidy on parity values for the cotton producer and relief for the cotton producer in any manner and looking to the saving of our export markets and guaranteeing our economic future.

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Union Head Sends Wire

Shortly after Butler charged he was beaten, the sheriff received a wire from H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary of the union, from Memphis, which read:

"The Southern Tenant Farmers Union holds you responsible for an attack by planters on J. R. Butler, its president, today. You are a sworn peace officer and will be held accountable for this crime in United States Court."

Commenting on Butler's charge that he was "beaten by several men, including two plantation operators with commissions as special deputies," Sheriff Campbell said "it is customary for the sheriff's office to commission planters when they ask to be commissioned." They want it for protection on their plantations, he said.

Claims Feeling Is High

E. F. Bunch, operator of the Graham farm four miles southeast of here, was reported to have separated Dr. Winter and Butler when the first blows were strick. Bunch followed the sheriff and Butler to the latter's automobile after the fight, the sheriff said.

Butler said feeling against the union is bitter among planters around Forrest City because of its efforts to furnish cotton pickers for a planter near Hughes willing to pay $1 per nundred pounds against the 75 cents he said generally was offered here.

Attended Hearing

Butler attended a hearing today at which Melvin Swinea, 30, an organizer, was given a year in prison on a larceny charge, growing out of the theft of a mule by another man. Swinea, Butler said, contends he bought the mule from the man in good faith and obtained a bill of sale.

Butler exhibited a cut lip at Memphis. He said his hearing was affected by a blow on the ear. He claimed he was struck three times and "knocked down the stairs."

Bailey Is Asked To Probe Incident

H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, said last night he had appealed to Governor Carl E. Bailey of Arkansas to investigate the alleged beating of J. R. Butler union president, yesterday at Forrest City.

In reply to a telegram in which Mr. Mitchell asked the Governor, "won't you act immediately to prevent further mob violence and bring these men to justice," he said Governor Bailey promised to investigate the case.

Attorneys for the union, Mr Mitchell said, have been instructed to bring civil suits against the alleged attackers of Butler.

Farm Bill To Benefit Farmer Is Urged by South Carolinian

Southern congressmen were urgedcall together a represyesterday by J. Roy Jones, Commissioner of Agriculture of South Carolina, to support the Bankhead farm bill meetingand there write a bill which would the needs of the South and backed by all the farmers. have the solid indorsement of our Southern representatives in Congress," he said.

Attending the Southern Tenantgress," he said.

Farmers Union meeting here, Commissioner Jones outlined a seven-point plan designed to give the Southern farmers parity power with other sections and "guarantee of our economic future."

"A direct subsidy on parity-values for the cotton producer and relief for the Federal Government from a tremendous number of unemployed.

"Assurance to the cotton producer of a fair price for his product."

"A bill reflecting the unified sentiments of all those interested in

"Some organizations with suffi-

ARMED PLANTERS
SMASH MEETINGS OF
FARM TENANTS UNION

Crusader News Agency
6-13-37----- New York

MEMPHIS, June--(CNA)- The violent breaking up of two meetings of locals of the Southern enant Farmers' Union in Mississippi County, Arkansas, gave fresh confirmation to the charges of union officials that Arkansas planters were launching a new campaign of terror against members of the union.

An orderly meeting of the Armoral local at the home of Earl Thompson, union member, was disrupted when a group of about forty planters and riding bosses, led by C. Cregery, Superintendent of the adjacent Lee Wilson Plantation, broke into Thompson's home, the union charged. The raiders forced 75 union members to leave the house at the point of guns. They searched the house, destroying furniture and thretening members of the union. After dispersing the meeting they seized the charter of the local.

On the same night, T. B. Moore, organizer for the union, was forced off the plantation of C. M. & J. R. Whittle, twenty miles west of Blytheville on Little River. Moore had been invited by some fifty tenants on the plantation to enroll them in the union. Shortly after arriving at the home of one of the tenants, he was forced to leave by the Whittle brothers and a group of their riding bosses, the union charges. All of the men were armed.

Officials of the union have sent telegrams to Governor Bailey of Arkansas and to the United States Senate Civil Liberties Committee demanding an investigation of "these violations of liberties guaranteed to all citizens under the Constitutions of Arkansas and of the United States."

Labor - 1937.
Unions, Strikes, etc.

Southern Tenant Farmers Union

Planters Flayed At Tenant Meet

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Delegates from Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma cheered wildly as a professor of government predicted a cooperative farming system based on those of Sweden and Denmark.

An Arkansas member of President Roosevelt's farm tenantry commission, the Rev. W. L. Blackstone, declared it would "take years to root out the evils of farm tenantry."

"I am no believer in Utopias," declared Dr. Cortez A. M. Ewing, University of Oklahoma government professor, "but there is reason to believe that we may be able to achieve solution of our problems of distribution without revolution."

Ewing said fascism, if it reached America ,would be only an "interlude" and added: "It is common gossip that Hitler is to face a real revolution in Germany within five months."

Interspersed with the parodies were songs ridiculing Paul Peacher, marshal of Earl, Ark., convicted recently of violating an old slavery statute

FARM TENANT UNION OPENS CONVENTION

6 States Represented at Oklahoma Parley to Formulate Demands

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The union, which has been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor, consists of sharecroppers, tenant farmers and day laborers, mostly in the cotton fields of the South. A large part of its activity has centered in Eastern Arkansas where it conducted a strike of cotton choppers last summer during which charges were made that sharecroppers were being forced to work at the point of the gun. The conviction of Paul D. Peacher, city marshal of Earle, Arkansas, on a Federal indictment accusing him of peonage, resulted

SIX STATES REPRESENTED

According to H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary of the union, delegates will be in attendance from Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas.

The convention program will include addresses by prominent labor leaders of the South, leading economists and Administration spokesmen who will discuss proposed methods of dealing with the problem of Farm Tenancy.

In a statement issued by Mr. Mitchell, announcing the convention, the Union declared:

TELL OF GAINS

"We enter our third annual national convention with far greater strength than we dreamed we could achieve in the short space of three years of existence. In that period we have won signal victories in behalf of one of the most exploited sections of American labor.

"Fair settlements have been gained for individual tenant farmers in many cases that have been brought to our attention. High prices have been paid in the areas where we are strongly organized. Efforts to convict union members on trumped-up charges have been blocked by our defense machinery. The Southern Tenant Farmers Union is responsible for having brought to the attention of the American people the fact that slavery still exists in some sections of the country, and we have already succeeded in bringing about the successful prosecution of Paul D. Peacher, city marshal of Earle, on charges of peonage.

TO MAP DEMANDS

"Because of the activities of our organization, the nation has been awakened to the tragic prevalence of farm tenancy which has reached tremendous proportions. Due to our efforts, several State commissions have been appointed to investigate the subject and propose remedia legislation. A similar commission has been appointed by the President of the United States, which is holding hearings at the present time. Our organization has made it possible for the tenant farmers to voice their demands at last.

"The convention, which will be held in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Jan 14 to 17, will reformulate the demands of the sharecroppers and farm workers of the United States who have been giving careful attention to the problem which so vitally affects their daily lives. When the delegates coming from such far-flung states as Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas, convene in Muskogee, they will make plans for building their organization further and for pressing a genuine program for the elimination of farm tenancy."

200 Delegates Attend Tenant Meet

Walter White Speaks; Says South Beginning to Overcome Race Prejudice

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Jan. 23.—Two-hundred delegates in attendance at the Southern Tenant Farmer's Union, left for their homes Saturday fololwing a four-day session at which time the rural problems of the south were laid naked and bare.

The session adopted a constitution covering the permanent work of the organization and re-affirmed their objectives to free the southland from the thralldom of peonage which has been fastening its grip upon white and black alike since the Civil War.

The sessions were enlivened Friday morning by an address by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People White, who arrived by plane and left immediately following his address, said in part;

". . . the share croppers are working out solutions which are rooted in the realities of the American situation.

"With foreign markets for cotton gone forever," he declared "with soil exhaustied and with violence used to stir passions, America will be long, under stand and appreciate how great is your contribution to society.

"Efforts will be made to turn you against each other," he told the mixed audience of white and Negro sharecroppers. "If you let these efforts succeed, you are doomed.

Forget Race Prejudice

"You have demonstrated that Americans can be big enough and wise enough to forget race prejudice and the hatred which race prejudice creates between man and man, and instead to unite on the thing which you have in common."

He was introduced by Howard Kester, a member of the union's executive committee.

Dr. Morris M. Blair of Oklahoma A. and M. college spoke during the morning and warned that "the cotton markets of the south are gone for at least a generation.

"Cotton farming breeds tenancy," he said, declaring that the south must cease to become a "one-crop region."

"It is going to be hard on all of us, but it must be done and we must face facts," he said.

Rep. Maury Maverick of San Antonio, Texas, a democrat, messaged the tenant farmers by telegram to "organize and organize strongly so that you can feed your families and educate your children and live like decent Americans."

The tex of Maverick's telegram: "You men should organize and strongly organize so that you can feed your families and educate your children and live like decent Americans. Do not be timid. Do not be afraid."

From Blaine Treadway, suave, smiling assistant manager of the Delta Co-operative Farms in Hillhouse, Miss., the delegates heard a Utopian tale of community living, with 2138 acres of rich farming land "bought out from under the bosses," and converted into a sharecropper heaven.

Treadway brought a message of "racial equality," from Mississippi.

"We will tear down these barriers that should never have been built," he shouted.

Cites Russian Example

"In Russia," he continued, "the competitive system has been found not to work, and this same kind of co-operative has been used. We are building so that when that grand day comes, we will have our farm as a bulwark in our campaign.

"The hope of the south is in the union, and we want to work with the union. We are looking to the day when the worker will come into his own."

The Hillhouse farm, Threadway said, is "regarded with antagonism in the south, but we own the land and we are willing to stand there and fight.

"We won't be bothered," he said, declaring that one function of the group is to "train union organizers."

The farm was established in March, he said, with 33 Negro and white families who were evicted fom the big plantations. It is being financed by "interests who believe in the co-operative movement." and paid off $8800, or $300 to a family, at the end of the year. It contains a communiy store, on which the farm recently declared a dividend of 9 per cent for each member of the communy.

Land Bought Secretly

The land was "bought secretly," and 22 new homes have been built. They marketed 153 bales of cotton last year, and intend to extend their operations in 1937.

"We are unique," Treadway said, "We believe in the co-operative state, and we have set up a temple for the people in the heart of the feudal south."

The South Makes Progress in Race Relations

White newspapers of the state were inclined to scoff and laugh at the delegates who attended the third annual session of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, held in Muskogee last week, and where more than 200 white and black workers forgot Jim Crow and segregation, meeting together with a common purpose and a common aim.

Many white workers in the South who live on farms have never realized until now that they have for years been caught in a cruel vise improvised for the purpose of re-enslaving the black man. Those of us who know the history of the South realize that farm tenantry came with the freedom of the slave. Prior to that time poor whites lived in the hill country and the mountains. Only the rich whites and slaves lived in the fertile valleys.

The same poor whites who today are victims of vagrancy laws have apparently never realized that all such statutes were originally enacted to help nullify Lincoln's freedom. The gradual sanction which finally came to this type of law has reached out to grasp poor whites as well as Negroes in its cruel maw.

Those of us who know of the shameful "hireling bonds" force Negroes in Arkansas and other southern states involuntary servitude, realize and know that such statutes sweep back into white life the ancient system of indenture which made white people the first slaves in this country.

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at Muskogee, it was easy to see in the meeting held there that the poor whites in seven states of the American Union are slowly waking up to the menace to their freedom and happiness which hangs like the sword of Damocles over their heads.

We attended one session and remained for two hours among the delegates, and while there was much evidence that the King's English had been completely outlawed by the delegates, there was also abundant proof that God's brotherhood and love hovered in the hallways and dominated the meeting place.

The meeting was rather cumberson in its movements, and measured by the yardstick of the intelligentsia, did not get very far; but this group of white and black citizens were thinking right fundamentally. They met on a lofty plane above race prejudice, which to say the least, is far in advance of the reactionary intellectuals. There is an old Persian saying which runs thusly:

"Sow a thought to reap a habit;
Sow a habit to reap character;
Sow character to reap destiny."

The Southern Farmers Tenant Union has started whites and blacks in the South to thinking correctly. Slowly it is dawning upon the poor white that the problem of the white and black worker is identical and the same. This is one of the dividends America acquired from the fast receding depression. Dire want and destitution have taught thousands whose faces are pale that there is absolutely no difference between an empty black belly and an empty white belly.

Slowly but surely, it is dawning upon the poor whites down in Dixie that prejudice is a problem in economics. As a slave the Negro kept the poor white completely outside the economic circle. The slave was the skilled mason, carpenter and craftsman. With the coming of freedom the poor white grasped the tool and organized with the ruling class whites against the blacks. Men like Howard Kester and his colleagues are now making a belated admission. They are inclined by the philosophy of Booker T. Washington, who said:

"No man can hold another man down in the ditch without finally getting down in the ditch with him."

Laugh if you will at the grotesque, clumsy movements of the delegates attending the Southern Farmers Tenant Union. Scoff at the talk you heard regarding social equality and a square deal, but the men and women who came from the bowels of Dixie to Muskogee last week come from the same humble stratum of those who followed Christ, who precipitated the Crusades and who have in the past formed the background of every advanced social movement in the world.

SOME OF THE DELEGATES TO THE SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION

Black and white delegates from Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Alabama, from tenant farms in front of the old convention hall, Friday. Note the three white the rural section of this region, met in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and forgetting segregation lines, discussed the problems of the South's working class.

Photo by Woodard Bros.

SHARECROPPER WEEK MARCH 1, MEETINGS SET

Fugitives from Planter Terror to Speak in New York

Officials of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, the labor organization of tenant farmers, sharecroppers and farm laborers in the cotton fields of the South, will come to New York City March 1, to participate in meetings and activities, officials of National Sharecroppers announced yesterday.

Among those who will come to New York are J. B. Butler, president and executive secretary of the S. T. S. U., and W. L. Blackstone, a member of the union's Executive Council and the only sharecropper member of President Roosevelt's Special Committee on Farm Tenancy.

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"It is the purpose of National Sharecroppers Week to change this consciousness of the problem to an understanding of the problem and, further, to gain support for those who are seeking a real solution."

Others who will come to New York during the week are:

Mrs. Frank Weems, wife of the missing sharecropper whose disappearance led to a Federal investigation; J. M. Reese, a sharecropper who was assaulted at the time of Weems's kidnaping or murder; D. A. Griffin and W. R. Purcell, union organizers, Marie Pierce, a sharecropper who is a refugee from Arkansas because of union activity; John Handcox, sharecropper poet and singer; Newell Fowler, attorney for the union, and Aaron Lovenstein, Memphis representative of the Workers Defense League.

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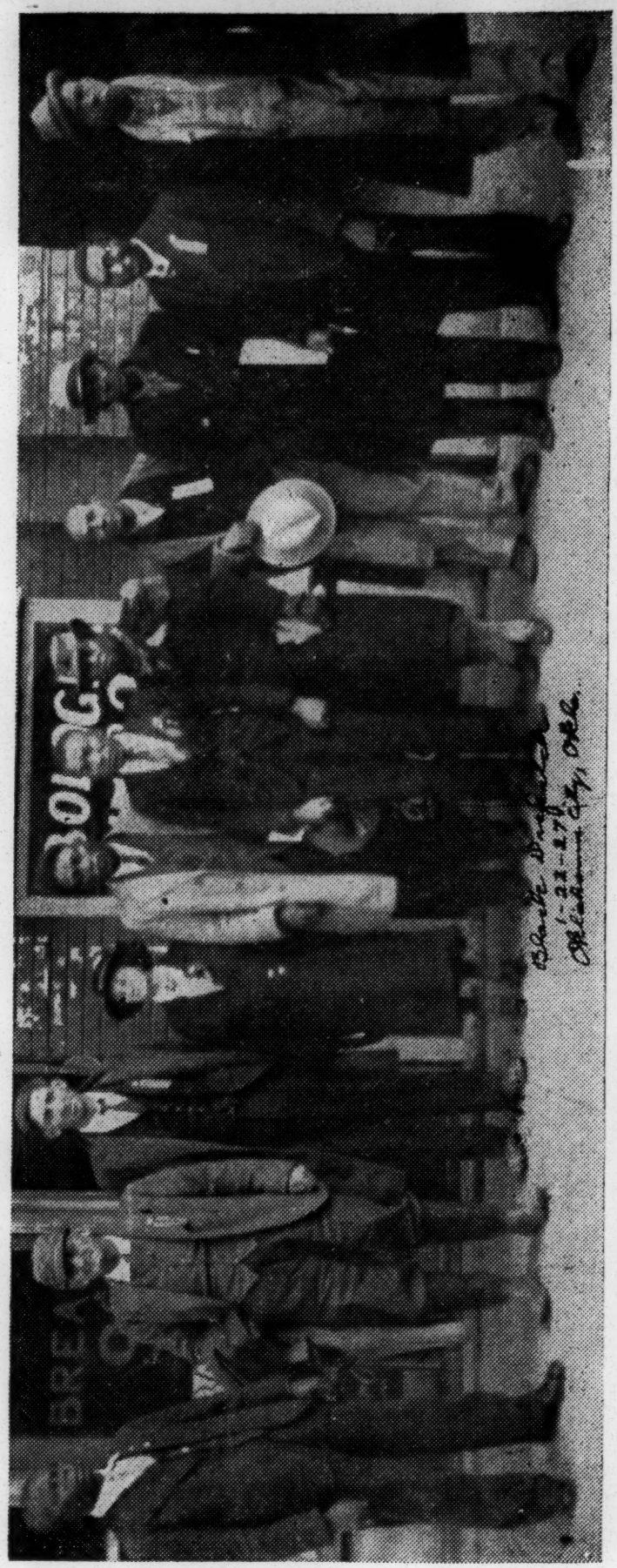

Black and white delegates from Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Alabama, from tenant farms of the rural section of this region, met in Muskogee, Oklahoma, forgetting segregation lines, discussed the problems of the South's working class. The picture above was made by the Black Dispatch photographer in front of the old convention hall, Friday. Note the three white delegates to the left.

More than two hundred delegates, half of whom were Negroes, attended the sessions.

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South Texas Agricultural Workers Union.

COTTON PICKERS WIRE PLEA TO MISS PERKINS

Federal Mediation Is Asked by 4,000 in Wage Deadlock With Texas Growers

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SAN BENITO, Texas, July 9.—The South Texas Agricultural Workers Union appealed by telegraph today to Secretary Perkins for a Department of Labor mediator to settle differences between its members and cotton growers.

The appeal marks a step in an attempt to bring a great many unskilled workmen into the fold of collective bargaining.

The telegram, sent by C. O'Rourke, district representative, said:

"The workers' union, representing 4,000 cotton pickers in the valley, has fruitlessly requested growers to meet and discuss union demands for an 85-cent per 100-pounds rate for cotton picking.

"The union wishes peaceful settlement, and is willing to accept Federal mediation."

The growers' original offer of fifty cents was raised to sixty and the workers' original request of $1 was dropped to eighty-five cents, but there the matter has stood.

Four persons, termed "agitators" by officers here, have been arrested and three of them jailed so far on charges of vagrancy in connection with fist fights between labor organizers and farmers.

Cotton picking in this area was getting under way generally a week ago when rains delayed picking.

Outcome of efforts to organize cotton pickers and bring about a higher wage is being watched in other areas of the South, where the crop will begin maturing in a short time.

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Steel Workers Organizing Committe.

Attend First Gary Works--S. W. O. C. Conference

Precedent was broken as this group of men, representing Gary lodges of the John L. Lewis steel union, conferred with the Gary Works management in the first negotiations ever held by the plant executives with an outside union. In the first row, left to right are Steven Thruel, Joe Goin, Nicholas Fontecchio, Calumet district chief of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee; Jack Rusak, S. W. O. C. organizer, and Jesse Clements; second row, John Tetak, Tony Creach, John Mayerik, Edward Ennis, Z. Mallis, and Cleo Crawford; third row, M. Smith, S. Tucker, J. Stillers, and Michael Finan; fourth row, Ernest Grissell, George St. Mary, Arthur Adams, Al Armour, and Nick Busic.

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Tennessee

BARGE LINE UNION BAN DENIED IN DOCK STRIKE

Negroes Charge Officials With Outlawing Activity

Approximately 55 negro freight handlers of the Federal Barge Line yesterday staged a "walkout" after they claimed company officials ordered them to cease union activities.

The men charged that John W. Lynch, general foreman at the Georgia Street terminal, yesterday afternoon warned them that "any person taking part in union activities or formation of a union could not work on the job."

P. H. Patterson, terminal superintendent, when informed of the workers' statement branded it as a lie. "I was standing right there when they told the leader he was shooting off his mouth too much and fired him. The others followed him off the place," he said.

"Work is going right along," he added. "We are glad to get rid of a lot of the men. We have called the Federal Employment Bureau to furnish us with a new shift for this morning's work.

"The walkout came as a complete surprise to us. We pay our men 30 cents an hour which is tops in Memphis for that type labor. They work from 40 to 60 hours a week."

Thomas A. Watkinz, negro union leader, estimated the men average 25 hours a week at 30 cents an hour. They have applied for membership in the International Longshoreman's Union he claimed.

Mississippi River Conflict Scene, Picketing Begun

Journal and Guide
7-17-37
Norfolk Va

Intimidation Is Charged To Foreman After Union Secretary's Home Is Visited; U. S. To Intervene

By NAT. D. WILLIAMS
(Special to Journal and Guide)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—A new siege gun spoke on the hitherto quiet Memphis sector of the troubled American labor front last Saturday morning, when 114 colored laborers, members of a newly-formed dock workers' (Longshoremen's union local, began picketing boats of the Federal Barge Line down on the Mississippi river-front, from Iowa Avenue on the south to Poplar Street on the north, an approximately four-mile stretch of water-front.

The dock workers' action is unusual because of the traditional weakness and docility of black labor in the South, and the fact that union activity among colored workers in this section is largely unknown.

UNIONISTS DISCHARGED

Trouble started for the river-workers, lineal descendants of oldtime roustabouts and stevedores of early river days, when John W. Lynch, white, general foreman in charge of workers on the barge line, discharged several men last Saturday morning because of union activities.

It is stated that Lynch fired the men when he had learned through one of his henchmen, a Negro laborer, that there were several union organizers among the men.

Despite the fact that the daily papers reported the trouble as a walk-out called by the union, Frank Hargraves, colored organizer for the International Longshoremen's Union, who came to Memphis on June 21 for the purpose of organding the river workers, stated that the men were not out on strike, but were picketing the barge lines in order to protect their jobs until the controversy started by Lynch could be settled.

ALL HAD JOINED

According to Hargraves the men left their jobs only when Lynch, violently opposed to unionization of his workers, attempted to fire all the union men in his crews, and discovered that practically all the workers had joined.

It was leaned that on Saturday morning, Lynch, acting on the information furnished by a colored stool pigeon, addressed the crew by remarking: "I want every black * * * who's in that * * * union to get the hell off this job right now. I'm not going to have any * * * union among my crews."

When he said this, and apparently waited to see three or four men walk away, as he had addressed his remarks to them, practically the entire crew left.

Another barge line official is credited with stating, "I was standing right there when the leader was told he was shooting off his mouth too much and was fired. The others followed him off the place."

PICKET LINE STARTED

Acting under the directions of union leaders the men immediately began picketing in the vicinity of the barge line offices downtown and on the river front. They confined their activities to requesting job hunters not to seek work on the barges until the trouble was settled.

Rumors of two or three instances in which dock-workers who refused to leave the job were "shoved around' 'a bit, have been voiced, but no definite information could be gained on that score.

City police squad cars patroled the river front late Saturday night and Sunday, urging the men to act peaceful, avoid crowds and arguments, and refrain from molesting passers-by other than to state in quiet tones their desire that no one seek to work on the barge line. To date, no serious trouble has been reported.

LONG STANDING CONTROVERSY

According to statements furnished by various members of the dock-workers union, the present controversy is the outgrowth of several years of bickering and attempted union activity. They state that in 1935, the men, acting to prevent any further wage cuts, attempted to organize, but that Mr. Lynch discovered their aim and discharged the organizers and members of the local.

Later a union organizer from Cairo, Illinois, came on the job and started to organize the men, and likewise was driven away. Hargraves, tall, powerfully built president of local 1400, St. Louis, Mo., of the International group, and leader in the ranks of the American Federation of Labor, to come to Memphis and organize the river-workers in this district.

Fresh from union organizing activities in Cairo, Illinois, and St. Louis, where he makes his home, Hargraves worked quietly but effectively among the more than thre hundrd colored dock-workers in the Memphis vicinity. And in the short space of time from June 21 to July 9, had succeeded in causing approximately 125 men to join the International Longshoremen's Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor.

A Memphis chapter was set up, application for a charter made, and local officers installed. Hargraves states that the local union has the support of the A. F. of L. The Memphis Trades and Labor Council, composed largely of white unions and a supporter of the A. F. of L. in the current labor split over the C. I. O. headed by John L. Lewis, is also lending advice and assistance to the locked-out colored river laborers in the present strife.

Rev. Loring, president of the Memphis Council has held several conferences with Hargraves at the white Labor Temple on Beale St., at Lauderdale.

Hargraves stated that a federal labor mediator is expected to arrive from Washington this week to aid in settling the dispute. The possibility of an early settlement of the trouble is voiced based on the fact that the colored workers' organization does not come into conflict with the interests of any white workers in this area, and because under the Wagner Act, laborers are conceded the right to organize and bargain collectively. There are practically no white longshoremen in this district.

NOT RADICALS

In voicing his reaction to the situation, southern-born Hargraves took occasion to state his philosophy, that there is no room for radical Communistic ideas among the men. He said that all his fellow workers ask is a decent and living wage for the hard labor they perform, and the right to look after their own interests. The wages of Memphis river workers at present is generally 25 to 30 cents an hour. The men rarely get an opportunity to work more than 25 hours per week. They desire better wages per hour and better working conditions.

MEN INTIMIDATED

Under the head of bettered working conditions, many of the men pointed particularly to the fact that the general foreman, John W. Lynch, carries a gun on his hip on the job, and has no hesitancy in making a "play" for it whenever

difficulties arise with the men.

Eyewitnesses among the men stated that he attempted to intimidate a number of the workers into returning to their jobs after the mass action Saturday.

As late as Sunday night the men were still picketing the area about the barge line, but were maintaining good order with no trouble reported. Picked union sentinels patrol the area, keeping the men from forming large groups, crowding the sidewalks, and engaging in arguments. They have restricted their activities to the area around the foot of Iowa, Georgia, and W. Illinois Street.s

Hargraves stated that he expects the matter to be straightened out with the arrival of the federal conciliator, and thru the help of the heads of the Memphis Trades and Labor Council.

In a late bit of information picked up Sunday afternoon, it was learned that Hargraves was picked up Sunday morning by the police and held for two hours. He stated that he was only held and then released through the efforts of Mr. Loring of the Labor Council.

Hargraves also displayed a telegram from the St. Louis local which read as follows: "Have your message—wire Ashburn and Miss Perkins that line will be closed from Cairo to St. Paul if men are not put back to work immediately—ready for action—send information as to steps taken."

The message was interpreted to mean that longshoremen's locals all up and down the river are ready to assist the Memphis unit.

U.S. AGENT, CIO AIDE RUN OUT OF TOWN

Group of Cleveland, Tenn., Men Tell Pair, "You've Caused Enough Trouble."

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., July 15.—(AP)—Noel Beddow, regional Steel Workers Organizing Committee director, and J. Smith, United States Department of Labor conciliator, both of Birmingham, Ala., "were forced" to leave Cleveland, Tenn., today by "12 or 15 men."

Beddow said he and Smith were in the office of the Brown Stove Works when the men entered and ordered them to "load up and get going."

"They followed us through the town and about three miles down the highway," he said. Both men returned to Chattanooga.

A five-week strike at Cleveland of 2,000 steel and iron workers employed at four plants ended yesterday. The men were divided in their affiliations between the CIO and the American Federation of Labor.

Presence Requested.

The director explained he and Smith had gone to Cleveland at "the telephoned request of officials of the Brown Stove Works in an effort to complete an agreement for the workers."

Beddow added the Brown officials "had nothing to do with our being expelled from Cleveland."

He said he expected to file charges of intimidation with the Labor Relations Board.

"As the men approached us in the office," Beddow said, "a spokesman asked 'which is Beddow?' I replied that I was and he said 'we think the CIO and you fellows have caused enough trouble and I think you better get out. The businessmen of Cleveland have been knocked out of some $200,000 in trade and workers out of four or five weeks' work.'

"I said if that is your attitude there is nothing to do but go.

Tired of "Butting-In."

"Smith told them that he was a representative of the United States Department of Labor. They said that didn't make any difference and 'we are tired of these government agencies butting into our affairs in Cleveland—load up and get going'."

Grover Brown, president of the Brown Works, said "I am very sorry it happened."

Chief of Police Trotter announced he had started an investigation.

TENNESSEE CITY EJECTS BEDDOW

'Best People Of Cleveland' 'Usher' SWOC Official Out Of Town

Noel R. Beddow, regional director for the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, who was "ushered out" of Cleveland, Tenn., by a group of men yesterday, announced here today that he would return there next week to continue negotiations for contracts in that area.

Mr. Beddow and L. J. Smith, U. S. Department of Labor conciliator, were in the offices of the Brown Stove Works at Cleveland, completing negotiations for a labor contract, when a group of about 15 men who said they represented the "best people of Cleveland" advised them to leave town.

Mr. Beddow said he was instructed to get in his automobile and drive down the Chattanooga Highway. He said he pointed out that Mr. Smith was a Government labor official but the men also asked him to leave. Mr. Beddow said no threats of violence were made.

Mr. Beddow said he drove into Chattanooga and that a short time later G. C. Brown, president of the Brown Stove Works, and his attorney came to Chattanooga and negotiations were completed, the company recognizing SWOC as bargaining agency for its employes.

He said a group of Cleveland citizens also came to Chattanooga, including an attorney, and expressed regret that the incident occurred. They assured him, Mr. Beddow said, that when he returned to Cleveland there would be no disorders.

Mr. Beddow said Mr. Smith conferred with labor officials in Washington by telephone after reaching Chattanooga. Complaints charging intimidation will be filed, Mr. Beddow said.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 13, 1937

DOBBS IS REMOVED AS LABOR ARBITER

Taken Off of Conciliation Body by Central Union.

C. M. Fox Tells of Plans for A.F.L. Membership Drive to Begin in Few Days.

Joe G. Dobbs, former president of the Central Labor union, who resigned his office to accept a post as an organizer for the C. I. O., was ousted last night by the labor group as a member of the Chattanooga conciliation board. The board membership was given by election to A. V. Cordell, of the Carpenter's union.

Dobbs was one of six labor men on the board set up to mediate labor disputes in Chattanooga. Civic and business leaders were appointed to meet with the labor men in the event the board's services were called upon.

According to Erskine Mabee, secretary of the labor body, Dobbs automatically became ineligible for the conciliation board membership with his resignation from the Central Labor union.

Last night's meeting was addressed by C. M. Fox, of North Carolina, American Federation of Labor representative, who outlined plans for a membership drive to begin in Chattanooga within a few days. The drive will be concentrated principally on the textile industry.

Asked if the move might be construed as a drive in opposition to C. I. O. organization now under way in Chattanooga, Mabee replied: "I don't know."

Several other A. F. of L. representatives also spoke.

The labor body indorsed a resolution backing colored physicians in their request that they be allowed to practice among colored patients in Erlanger hospital.

C. I. O. PLANS TO PROBE ATTACK ON ORGANIZERS

Union Awaits Arrival of Additional Men

Disregarding the Police Department inquiry into the beating of Norman Smith and Charles Phillips, C. I. O. organizers, Tuesday night, the C. I. O. will seek to identify the gang of "12 to 15 men" who attacked the two labor workers.

Mr. Smith, still in his room in a downtown hotel, said an investigation would be made as soon as additional organizers get here. The Police Department reported "no progress" in their investigation, pointing out that Mr. Phillips had refused to make any complaint and had secreted himself from investigating detectives.

"I am certain we can identify some of the men," Mr. Smith said yesterday.

City officials were noncommittal concerning the arrival of more C. I. O. organizers in view of their statement that they would "not be tolerated." Commissioner Davis was asked directly what action the police will take when they arrive, and he replied:

"I won't cross any bridges until I come to them."

The American Civil Liberties Union has offered a $1000 reward for arrest and conviction of any of the assailants and in a statement from the New York office announced it would retain counsel to sue city officials "and others implicated in the attack."

MAYOR WARNS C. I. O. TO STAY OUT OF CITY; HITS STRIKE TACTICS

Use of Police Threatened At Any Sign of Invasion By Union Organizers

ACTION COMES SUDDENLY

Overton Declares Agitators Will Not Be Tolerated

CAMPAIGN HERE HINTED

Executive's Action Seen As Indicating Campaign Is Anticipated Here—Three Groups Already Formed

Apparently anticipating a drive by C. I. O. organizers among local labor groups, Mayor Overton yesterday declared that the full power of the City Government—including its Police Department—will be used to keep the organizers out of town, regardless of their tactics.

His Statement

The statement said:

"Imported C. I. O. agitators, Communists and highly paid professional organizers are not wanted in Memphis. They will not be tolerated. Their tools are violence, threats, sitdown strikes, destruction. They demand the American workers to submit or starve. They seek strife and conflict. They care nothing for Memphis—only to use us if they could.

"The City Government favors fair wages and right working conditions for the laboring man. But we will oppose C. I. O. violence, threats, un-American policies from start to finish. Let them go elsewhere, if anyone wants them. We don't and won't tolerate them."

"Only Rumblings"

Whether the C. I. O. will meet this defy, or was prepared to start a major drive in any event, could not be learned locally, but Robert Tillman, member of the Shelby Legislative Delegation, is regional adviser for a C. I. O. union, employed on a monthly salary.

Behind the Mayor's statement was seen the possibility of efforts to organize at the new Firestone rubber plant and the promise of city-county officials, at the time of its location here, to help keep down labor troubles.

Pressed to enlarge on his statement, the Mayor said he had nothing to add and had heard nothing definite, "only rumblings."

Alleged C. I. O. objectives, aside from the Firestone plant, are the Ford plant, the American Finishing Company, department store repair and alteration workers, and the cottonseed oil workers.

The Southern Tenant Farmers Union will meet in special convention here Sept. 24-26 to decide if it will affiliate with the C. I. O. chartered United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America.

Tennessee

Labor-1937
Unions, Strikes, etc

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
September 15, 1937

a Workers in U. F. W. Install Charter Here

Chickamauga Dam construction Workers who are organized under the United Federal Workers, a Committee for Industrial Organization group, installed their charter in a meeting at the courthouse Tuesday night, Burton J. Zien, field representative of the U. F. W., announced.

Two other TVA groups have applied for their charters in the C. I. O., he added, the construction workers at Hiwasee Dam and another group at Hiwassee composed of office workers. A mass meeting of all TVA construction workers, Negro and white, has been called for Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in the courthouse for the purpose of furthering the organization, Zien said.

"Let me make it clear," he said, "that we are not seeking to compete with the American Federation of Labor in its organization of skiled workers. We take only laborers, drillers, drivers, powder men, quarry men, road men, helpers, and so on, in the construction group and only office workers in the white-collar groups."

CIO Leaders In Memphis Beaten Again

Daily Worker
10-7-37

Police Now Declare They Will Search for Attackers

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 6 (UP).—Police Commissioner Cliff Davis promised immediate action today to find and punish the men who last night attacked Norman Smith, C. I. O. organizer, for the second time since he arrived here to conduct a membership drive for the United Automobile Workers Union among employes of the local Ford plant.

"Six or seven" men beat Smith with a "round-headed hammer" as he left his hotel with Harry Elder, also a union representative. The organizer was treated in a hospital emergency ward for scalp lacerations and an injured arm.

Smith was the victim of a similar attack shortly after he came here from St. Louis. Prior to that attack, Mayor Watkins Overton and Commissioner Davis had declared that "C. I. O. agitators will not be tolerated here." Later they said that union organizers would be protected "in the performance of legitimate duties."

Elder reported that he and Smith started walking to a radio station where Smith was to have made a speech, when a group of men appeared.

"They stuck a gun in my ribs and one of them said, 'Get in our car or we'll kill you,'" Elder said. "I fell down and grabbed the gun. Smith was being walked away.

"He refused to get in their car and then they beat him over the head with a round-headed hammer. Then they drove off."

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
October 26, 1937

NEGRO DOCK WORKERS STRIKE FOR PAY RAISE

132 Laborers Walk Out At Barge Terminal

TRUCE PERIOD EXPIRES

Previous Demand For Wage Increase Made On July 12 But Isn't Met, President Of Union Claims

Seeking a 48-hour week and a wage increase of 25 cents an hour, 132 negro members of the Memphis local, International Longshoremen's Association, went on strike at the Federal Barge Line terminal at 200 West Georgia at 8 o'clock last night.

Capt. P. H. Patton, terminal superintendent, declined to discuss the walkout.

Tom Watkins, negro president of the local, said that the strike was a result of barge line officials' failure to meet a 50-cent-an-hour demand made July 12. The present scale is 35 cents an hour and no overtime.

Pay Demand Increased

"We had an agreement that we would not strike during a 90-day truce," he said. "That expired on Oct. 13 and the company didn't do anything about our demands. So we just raised it to 60 cents an hour."

The union is also asking time and a half for overtime and work on Sundays and legal holidays. Watkins said that the demands will be presented to the officials by Lev Loring, president of the Memphis Trades and Labor Council, at 9 o'clock this morning.

No Picketing for Present

Watkins said that no pickets have been placed at the terminal and would not be at present.

While longshoremen struck in Memphis, shipping was crippled in Eastern and Southeastern ports by strikes, but an agreement was announced in New Orleans which gave the members a wage increase of 15 cents an hour to 95 cents and a four-hour shorter week of 44 hours. They will receive time and a half for overtime, effective as of Oct. 1.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
October 26, 1937

Longshoremen Strike At Memphis Terminal

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 26—(AP)—Tom Watkins, Negro president of the local chapter of the International Longshoremen's Union, said 132 union members employed at the federal barge line terminal here were on strike today for a forty-eight-hour week and a wage increase of 25 cents an hour.

The decision to strike, Watkins said, was made last night. He added that a ninety-day truce between the union and the barge line, agreed upon after a deadlock over union demands, expired October 13.

The terminal superintendent, Capt. P. H. Patton, withheld comment.

President Lev Loring of the Memphis Trades and Labor Council, of which the union is a member, said he would confer with union officials today.

PROTECTION PROMISED C. I. O. MEN BY MAYOR

Police Escort Assured Leaders on Legitimate Business

ACTION FOLLOWS REQUEST

Overton Reiterates Ban on Agitators in Replying to U. A. W. Official's Protest to Attaks on Organizers

The City of Memphis when requested will provide police escort for Norman Smith, C. I. O. organizer recently beaten, "or others who fear attacks while performing legitimate duties," Mayor Overton said yesterday after an official of the C. I. O. United Automobile Workers Union requested "immediate and adequate police protection" for representatives.

Mayor Overton sent a reply to F. C. Pieper of Atlanta, member of the auto workers union executive board, who made the request in a letter delivered to the Mayor's home Tuesday night. Mr. Pieper, who was in Memphis with another board member, Delmond Garst, of St. Louis, sent a duplicate letter to Commissioner Davis.

Union Leaders Confer

Mr. Pieper and Mr. Garst conferred here with James T. Nash of St. Louis, regional director of C. I. O.'s Unieed Federal Workers Union. Mr. Nash, whose national organization is enrolling Federal state and municipal employes, said he was in Memphis on "an observation tour."

In letters to the Mayor and Commissioner Davis, Mr. Pieper said:

"We feel that the recent attacks upon our representatives were the direct result of your statements and therefore request that you as the responsible officials of the City of Memphis give immediate and adequate protection to the representatives of the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America, affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization, namely: Norman Smith, H. A. Elder, Charles Phillips and William Kimberling.

Protection Deserved

"We wish to point out that it is undisputed that our representatives have conducted themselves in a creditable manner and are entitled to exercise their constitutional rights as defined by the National Labor Relations Act, and are deserving of the same respect and protection as any other American citizen."

Mr. Pieper's letter quoted recent statements of the Mayor and Commissioner Davis relative to their attitude on C. I. O.

Mayor Overton said in his reply: "I mean every word I said in regard to imported C. I. O. agitators, Communists, and highly paid professional organizers not being wanted or tolerated in Memphis in their efforts to coerce and intimidate workers and stir up violence. We want more factories and Saturday night payrolls. You would, through violence, intimidation and coercion close the factories we have —if you could.

Protection If Requested

"The City government of the City of Memphis will disclaim responsibility for assaults committed upon labor agitators or others who sneak about the city during the night in their efforts to coerce or intimidate workers to join C. I. O. unions. If requeste the Poice Depaltment will furnish police escort to Smith or others who fear attacks while performing legitimate uties. All persons violating any of our laws or ordinances will when apprehended be vigorously prosecuted.

"Coercion, intimidation, violence, terrorism and vandalism will not be tolerated in Memphis."

Asked if the City was retaining the right to say what are "legitimate duties," the Mayor said:

"That depends on the law."

His reply was the same to a question as to whether "legitimate duties" could include organizing work.

Memphis Cool To Union Plea For Protection

Mayor Overton Offers Guard For 'Legitimate' Functions Only

MEMPHIS, TENN., Sept. 29.—(AP)—Mayor Watkins Overton today offered "police escort" to C. I. O. organizers "performing legitimate duties," and at

the same time disclaimed responsibility "for assaults committed upon labor agitators or others who sneak about the city during the night time in their efforts to coerce or intimidate workers to join C. I. O. unions."

The mayor's statement was made in a letter to F. C. Pieper, a member of the executive board of the United Automobile Workers of America, a C. I. O. affiliate, in answer to a letter in which Pieper asked the mayor and Police Commissioner Clifford Davis to furnish police protection for organizers.

Pieper's letter referred to Mayor Overton's recent statement that the "imported C. I. O. agitators, Communists and highly-paid professional organizers" would not be "tolerated here," and to Commissioner Davis's statement police would "free Memphis of these unwanted people." Davis's statement said "we know Norman Smith and his whereabouts and will take care of that situation soon."

Pieper told the mayor and Davis he felt recent beatings given Smith, automobile workers' organizer, and Charles Phillips, his assistant, by groups of unidentified men, "were the direct result of your statements," and requested "immediate and adequate police protection" for Organizers Smith, Phillips, H. A. Elder and William Kimberling.

He said the organizers "have conducted themselves in a creditable manner," and were entitled to "the same respect and protection" as other citizens.

"I mean every word I have said in regard to imported C. I. O. agitators, Communists and highly-paid organizers not being wanted in Memphis in their efforts to coerce and intimidate workers and stir up violence," Mayor Overton replied. "We want more factories and Saturday night payrolls. You would, through violence, intimidation, and coercion close the factories we now have—if you could.

"The city government of the City of Memphis will disclaim responsibility for assaults committed upon labor agitators or others who sneak about the city during the night time in their efforts to coerce or intimidate workers to join C. I. O. unions. If requested, the police department will furnish police escort to Smith or others who fear attacks while performing legitimate duties. All persons violating any of our laws or ordinances will when apprehended be vigorously prosecuted."

Labor—1937

Unions, Strikes, etc.

Tennessee

Memphis Gets Applause For DefianceOfCIO

Action Against Group Of Organizers Is Not Specified

Advertiser

MEMPHIS, TENN., Sept. 20.—(AP)—Memphis's city administration became today the first in the "industrial South" to oppose the CIO in its campaign for Southern unionization.

Organizers for John L. Lewis's CIO faced the blunt warning of city officials that their presence here "will not be tolerated."

The official attitude of the city government was outlined by Mayor Watkins Overton who condemned CIO violence, threats and un-American policies" by "highly paid professional organizers."

9-21-37

Police Commissioner Clifford Davis pledged support and added "we have started today and will free Memphis of these unwanted people." He did not say what action had or would be taken. Neither would enlarge upon their statements. The CIO attack came while Memphis department store owners had on their desks a letter from the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, CIO affiliate, asking contracts covering their alteration departments.

There were no reports of organizers being ejected from the city and labor leaders made no immediate comment.

The officials' stand drew the praise and support of W. H. Jasspon, president of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of a business men's advisory council formed last April to handle labor questions.

The CIO, as part of a South-wide campaign, recently formed an organization here for a membership drive. Previously its activities had been confined chiefly to enlistment of textile and garment workers.

Other cities have charted a course in labor disputes, but the attitude has been impartial toward the CIO and A. F. of L.

In Birmingham, Chief of Police Luther Hollums issued an order, based on the Alabama criminal code, prohibiting picketing.

Mayor Hilary Howse of Nashville announced in June "strikers have a right under the law to picket, but they have no right and I'm not going to permit them to go into a plant and run it."

New Union Wins Marine Elections

NEW YORK, Sept. 20.—(AP)—The National Maritime Union, certified winner over the old International Seamen's Union in labor elections on the International Mercantile Marine Luckenbach and Black Diamond Lines, submitted a proposed agreement to three lines today to cover 4,000 seamen.

A two weeks' vacation with pay, a demand which union officials said created a precedent in maritime labor history, was a union objective. It also demanded recognition of a "ship's committee" for settling disputes arising during trips which modify the historic absolute authorities of ship captains at sea.

An eight-hour day, $1 an hour overtime scale, wage increases averaging 20 per cent and a hiring hall provision were listed in the proposed agreement.

C. I. O. FORCES CALLED HERE AFTER BEATINGS

Communist

Civil Liberties Union Wires Caustic Attack, Demands Full Investigation

9-23-37

Memphis became a focal point of C. I. O. activity yesterday as additional organizers were ordered from St. Louis and police officials denounced the organization as "Communistic," although promising a thorough investigation of the beating of Norman Smith and Charles Phillips, C. I. O. organizers, Tuesday night.

Memphis

Mr. Smith was at liberty yesterday after being held in jail Tuesday night "for a statement." Two other men, J. A. Anderson of 3700 Jackson, and Carl Black of Fremont and Airways, arrested at the scene of the attack, were released. They refrained to make any statement, claiming they were spectators.

Refuses Interview

Charles Phillips of 1472 Maplewood, a former Ford employe, and assistant to Mr. Smith, who claimed he was assaulted by a group similar to the one which attacked Mr. Smith later in the night, refused to talk to reporters, saying he was under instruction from C. I. O. to say nothing.

Newell Fowler, attorney for C. I. O., said the Phillips attack occurred between 7 and 8 o'clock Tuesday night.

"Smith and Phillips had been instructed by the National Labor Relations Board to prepare evidence in the beating of Ben McCullough, Ford plant worker and C. I. O. sympathizer. Last night both men were questioning witnesses in the case.

"Phillips went out to see a Ford worker on Alexander Street near Southern. As he left the house a group of about a dozen men, without saying a word, jumped on him. He was not as badly beaten as Smith and was able to make his way home.

"From the description given by Phillips and Smith, we think the same men did both jobs."

Hits Police Stand

The American Civil Liberties Union in New York wired Governor Browning asking for an investigation, declaring, "Vigilante violence has apparently had police participation in Memphis."

In a telegram to Police Commissioner Cliff Davis, the Union demanded a "public explanation of the attack in view of your previous utterance." The statement referred to was one made by Commissioner Davis Monday in which he said, in part:

"We know Norman Smith his whereabouts and will take care of that situation soon."

Communist

They also have posted a $1000 reward for information "leading to the arrest and final conviction of any person, whether public official or Vigilante, participating in the attack."

9-23-37

Commissioner Davis, when asked yesterday "if the situation had been taken care of," laughed and said, "You don't think the Police Department had anything to do this?"

Memphis

Mr. Smith, convalescing in his hotel bedroom last night from injuries received in the attack, was not inclined to believe that Commissioner Davis or any other public official was responsible for the attack, he said.

"However, I think Commissioner Davis' statement was misinterpreted by some who thought they had authority to beat me up," he said.

Mr. Smith has been in communication with U. A. W. officials throughout the day and was advised that C. I. O. organizers from the St. Louis area area would be sent here immediately. He said he had no idea how many would come.

Blames Ford Men

"And I don't know how they will be received in view of the Mayor's statement," he added with a smile.

Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Phillips were certain, they said, that the assailants were directed by Ford "service men" (company police) This was denied emphatically by J. K. Lester, branch manager of the Ford Motor Company. He was asked if the company had any service men here.

"No," he declared. "That's a crazy statement."

He said he had no intention of making any investigation.

"All we want out here is to be left alone," he said.

E. H. Crump, local political leader, declined to comment on the matter. So did Mayor Watkins Overton but later said of the general C. I. O. situation:

"We need more factories and more Saturday night payrolls and we can't get them if the C. I. O. takes charge of this town. That's what I'm opposed to."

Detective Lieut. W. J. Raney and Policeman C. B. Martin were not allowed to enter Phillip's home yesterday afternoon when they went to investigate the beating of Smith's assistant.

"As far as the Police Department is concerned the case is closed until a formal complaint is made by Phillips," Chief Will Lee said. "Police received no report on the alleged beating until newspaper reporters called yesterday afternoon.

"He said that police had made a "thorough" investigation of the beating, but were unable to learn Smith's assailants.

Lee Suspects Soviet

Chief Lee said he believed the C. I. O. to be a "Communistic organization controlled by the Soviets from Moscow."

"Browder and Foster, who have both run for President on the Communist ticket, are openly aiding John Lewis in organizing throughout the country," he said.

Mr. Smith said last night that he had no intention of leaving Memphis; that on the other hand he knew before he came here that the Memphis situation was "difficult" and that he was chosen over younger men because of his experience and caution.

NORMAN SMITH, C. I. O. AGENT, BEATEN AGAIN

Organizer Attacked On Main En Route To Studio

RADIO TALK WAS PLANNED

Auto Union Worker Struck With Hammer, Pistol Butts By Unidentified Men — 'Six Or Seven' Were In Gang

Dragged from his car as he prepared to leave for a radio station to make an address, Norman Smith, 38, organizer for United Automomile Workers Union, a C. I. O. affiliate, was beaten by six or seven assailants near the Ambassador Hotel, 347 South Main, at 6:30 o'clock last night.

Mr. Smith was struck with a hammer and pistol butts wielded by his assailants. Taken in a McDowell & Monteverde ambulance to John Gaston Hospital, Mr. Smith's wounds were not believed serious, police said.

Second in Two Weeks

He was beaten over the head with pistols and struck on the left hand by the man with the hammer, he told police. His face and clothes were spotted with blood as he entered the emergency room at the hospital.

It was the second time within two weeks that Mr. Smith had been attacked by unidentified assailants. The first assault occurred on the night of Sept. 21.

Mr. Smith, accompanied by H. A. Elder of St. Louis, a U. A. W. organizer, left the hotel shortly before 6:30 o'clock and went to a car which was parked just north of the hotel.

3

Aide Not Injured

The assailants stopped beside the machine occupied by Mr. Smith and Mr. Elder, and several men jumped out. One of them held a revolver on Mr. Elder, while the others attacked Mr. Smith. Mr. Elder was not injured.

After the assault, the men sped south in one or two autos, witnessee said. No one could provide officers with a license number.

Commissioner Cliff Davis took personal charge of the investigation last night. At the hospital he declared:

"We are not going to stand for any vilence here. I am going to see to it that a full investigation is made."

Smith Blames Ford

"Of course these (the assailants) are Ford service men;" Mr. Smith said. "They are professional thugs." thugs."

Mr. Smith was scheduled to speak over WMPS, in the Columbian Tower Building. He was replaced by Mr. Elder, and the second of the series of radio programs went on as scheduled.

Mr. Elder, after completing the broadcast, appealed to police for protection. Commissioner Davis said that two officers would accompany Mr. Elder during the night.

Mr. Smith's absence during the broadcast, Mr. Elder said:

"I'm sorry Mr. Norman Smith cannot be here tonight. Due to an attempted kidnaping of him and myself, outside of our hotel, Mr. Smith is in the City Hospital."

Why Act of Violence?

Speaking of violence, Mr. Elder said, "if the employers were not afraid of their employes, why are they attempting to frighten them with acts of violence? News reports bear out this statement."

"Our next program will be presented at 6:45 o'clock Wednesday night and at 7 o'clock Thursday and Friday nights."

Patrolmen Allison and Fletcher, who investigated at the scene of the attack, listed three witnesses in their report. They were Mr. Elder, Hobart Sorrells of Russellville, Ark., and Elmer L. Coley of 1587 Madison.

W. M. Knox, Grenada, Miss., grocer, and Max Allison of Walnut Ridge, Ark., told newspaper men that they witnessed the attack.

Mr. Sorrells gave the following version of the attack:

Two Did Beating

"I saw the car drive up and stop beside the car that Smith was in. Three men got out of the car and I think one stayed in. Two of the men pulled Smith out of the car and started beating him after they had broken the glass.

"They had what looked like revolvers in their left hands and what looked like hammers or blackjacks in their right hands. Just two did the beating and the third was just walking around. After they had finished, one of the men walked away and turned west off of Vance. They acted like they knew what they were doing."

Another witness, Mr. Knox, said that he was on the west side of Main about 15 or 20 feet from the place where the attack occurred.

Glass Was Broken

"I saw the men come up and two of them said to Smith, 'get out' and then broke the glass and the fight stated," said Mr. Knox. "I didn't get the license number of the car, but I'm sure it wasn't a Tennessee license plate."

Mr. Allison, in Memphis to buy a tractor, said that he was standing at Talbot and Main when the fihgt started and that he ran down to the scene. Mr. Allison and Mr. Knox told practically the same story as Mr. Sorrells.

Mr. Smith was beaten on the night of Sept. 21 at Hollywood and Jackson by a group of men. He was treated at John Gaston Hospital for multiple cuts about the head and body and then taken by police to headquarters, where he was locked up for the night. He was released the next day after making a report to police officials.

C. I. O. Warning Repeated

Bottles and wire cables were used by Mr. Smith's assailants in the first attack.

The first assault on Mr. Smith occurred a few days after city officials had announced its stand against C. I. O.

Mayor Overton and Commissioner Davis have reiterated their statements that "imported C. I. O. agitators, Communists and highly paid organizers" are "not wanted" and will not be "tolerated" in Memphis.

Labor - 1937

Unions, Strikes, etc.

Texas.

SHALL NEGROES JOIN UNIONS?

Informer 5-1-37

We are not able to rest content that the Negro workers of Texas are having the present labor issues honestly interpreted for them. Sweeping irresistibly over America today is an upsurge of labor, which is changing our whole concept of the relation of labor to capital and management in industrial production. The movement has shaken capital out of its ascendancy. No one knows where it will settle but it is certain that labor will be on an equal level, if not higher, when the settling takes place. Are our workers being told this?

Houston, Texas

Today the only way capital can get control of labor is through the none too popular company union. Negro laborers are at the cross-roads, facing bids from the CIO, the A. F. of L. and company unions. They are unfamiliar with the deep economic and social currents that will ultimately determine the struggle between capital and labor. But a wrong guess now, as to which course is right, may shift them to the permanent pile of unemployed that bids fair to be with us many a moon.

Many students of economics are beginning to realize that there is going to be a large element of unemployed, when prosperity is permanently back. Assuming that the New Deal effects the six hour day and the five day week, there will still be people unemployed. Company unions are obviously for the protection of employers. They are viewed with suspicion by the Commission appointed to administer the National Labor Relations Act and by the courts. Their purpose is to preclude CIO and A. F. of L. unions and yield as few of labor's claims as possible.

Nobody familiar with the power labor has attained expects company unions to succeed in their purpose. If Negroes stick to them and either the CIO or the A. F. of L. ultimately gets a majority in any given industry, what will happen to Negroes? Will the employers then insist that the Negroes, who have helped them in their efforts to thwart the other unions, be accepted in the independent unions after they get majorities? If they do so insist, will the unions yield to their requests after they have won victory, despite Negro opposition?

We don't believe the employers will make any serious effort to protect Negroes, after they no longer need their help. But if they should, we don't believe the independent unions are going to show much kindliness to laborers, who have fought with employers to keep them out. We believe labor's independence and the unions' control is practically assured by the NLRA and the almost paralyzing fear politicians have of offending labor. Our prediction is that unless something unforeseen happens, unions will organize shops down here, just as they have organized the great steel shops, automotive shops and others of the North and made the money barons like it.

All the arguments we have heard so far in favor of company unions seem superficial and childish. Even those that were valid before the recent Supreme Court decision on the NLRA are now vapid. We'd feel better if we could hear one or two sound reasons for Negroes being hostile to joining independent unions. The strongest one current seems to be that the independent unions won't let Negroes occupy the skilled positions; that as soon as a Negro joins a union, he is maneuvered to an unskilled job.

True is it that he has had about that experience in places where the A. F. of L. went in before the NLRA. It is also true that few Negroes have served the apprenticeships required for skilled positions under the unions. It is likewise true that employers will prefer to keep Negroes in skilled positions in company unions as long as they can do so at cheaper wages than the regular union scale. But all of this adds up to the fact that Negroes, who rely upon company unions, will be trying to hold wages of skilled positions down, so they can keep them.

Logically they should be figuring on how they can keep the jobs when wages rise. Just as water seeks its level, so do wages. If a machinist's wages in blank shop are $1.[illegible] an hour, sooner or later they will be $1.25 in X shop. A Negro who fights for the company union is trying to cut corners. His position is unnatural. He doesn't belong with capital. He belongs with the labor group, represented by unions. For years we have cursed because we were barred from the union. Now that the chance has come to join, we balk because if we join we must fight another fight to enforce our rights to skilled jobs.

The thing isn't as simple as stated above, of course. The CIO is plant-broad,—it takes in all workers, skilled and unskilled. But in Texas it is taking in the same prejudiced workers, who have fought Negroes all their lives. Can Negroes trust them if they join? It is doubtful. But do Negroes have to trust them for it wholly? How much are these whites being forced by necessity? Don't they need Negroes to sew-up and keep the shops? If they double-cross Negroes won't they turn them back to the company unions?

Right now the Negro is the balance wheel in many southern plants. The employer is courting him and the independent union is courting him. Which way shall he go? It looks like the greatest promise of improvement is with the union. Also immediately there is the greatest threat of struggle. The INFORMER believes the Negro of Texas should think long before he abandons independent unions and joins the company union. He should hear all both sides have to offer. Certainly when he joins the company union his worries are not over. If prudence and discretion dictate that he join a company union, let him keep listening for facts because sooner or later he will have to decide over or regret his decision.

Our position is that Negroes should join independent unions now and help shape their policies. To most Negroes of Texas and the South unions have stood for united effort on the part of white workers to bar Negroes. That is not the motive of the present sweep, it's to improve labor's condition.

RACE WORKERS ARE URGED TO JOIN A. F. OF L.

Informer 5-8-37

Longshoremen Have Already Applied For Membership

HOUSTON. — Sunday Freeman Everett, official A. F. of L. labor organizer for this district, was present at a meeting called of the men at Reed Roller Bit Co. in the Labor Temple and explained the advantages Negroes would gain by joining the A. F. of L. During the meeting some of the men asked pointed questions about the security of their jobs if they joined the union. Would they be allowed to occupy the higher jobs and get the pay? Or would they be frozen in the cheaper jobs while the white workers got the skilled workers' jobs and pay?

Mr. Everett insisted that there was no discrimination in a craft and said they would get the same the whites got. He pointed to his own craft, the Longshoremen as an example. But the men were not satisfied with general statements. Finally George Wilson, secretary of the Building Trades Council came in and Mr. Everett asked Mr. Wilson to answer, since he is also an organizer. Mr. Wilson answered as well as he could but finally suggested that he bring up a white member of the particular craft they were interested in and let him speak officially for the craft. It was agreed that such a spokesman be invited for the next meeting.

This particular group expects its charter from the A. F. of L. this week. They organized as a chapter of the A. F. of L. with knowledge of their company officials. A. L. Silas is serving as president and Edgar Parr is the acting secretary. The next meeting will be called as soon as the charter is in hand and will probably be announced through the press.

AS I SEE IT

By C. W. RICE

Southern Negro Workers Should Be Cautious In Lining Up With the CIO

Due to the many requests for the copy of this article, we reprint with this comment. "That in perilous times like these, Negro workers should be very careful as to the type of unions they join. The writer is not opposed to bona fide organizations, but since it is a well-known fact that the country is filled with agitators who have no other purpose in view but to overthrow our form of government and are trying to do everything they can by making labor their tool with which to do it, it certainly pays to be careful in making decision as to what type of organization he will cast his lot for protection. REMEMBER ETHIOPIA." 5-1-37 Houston* 2a

Since the Committee on Industrial Organization has extended its gigantic program to unionize all workers in the deep South, I have received many inquiries from workers as to what position the Negroes should take since so many race workers are employed in Southern industries and have always been denied union protection by the standard unions.

The Negro workers in the South should be very cautious in accepting the Committee on Industrial Organization as their salvation, notwithsanding the fact that housands of Negro workers are overworked and underpaid and have no redress in their cause.

In the first place, thousands and tens of thousands of Negroes in the South have good jobs with good pay and during the depression white unemployed workers resorted to nearly all known tactics to replace Negroes on jobs. Some of these tactics included all the way from boycotting of products handled by Negro workers to ambushing of the workers.

In the second place, it is generally admitted that many employers have exploited Negro workers, but on the other hand white workers organized to keep the Negro from working at all, not even a chance to earn his daily bread. So it can ——readily be seen that whatever progress Negro labor has made, it was at the hands of capital over the opposition of other workers.

Now a split has come in the ranks of organized labor. Both factions are struggling for power. The success of the CIO depends upon the splitting up of the American Federation of Labor and the unionizing of the organized. Here in the South the majority of other workers are practically in a unit as to the position of the Negro worker. It is hard to believe that although John L. Lewis, who is recognized the world over as the champion of the rights for all workers, can change these conditions in his organization scheme. "A leopard cannot change its spots."

It is generally conceded that the NRA was the strongest weapon that was ever designed to protect all workers and yet under this act more Negroes lost their jobs and got their pay reduced than at any other time in the history of this country.

Under the WPA only a few skilled workers have been able to get any work beyond that of a common laborer. The cause of this lies at the door of labor who controls in many instances, the hiring powers of the government administration.

If these conditions exist in government agencies when labor controls, what will happen to the Negro when such industries as Ford's that gives every man a chance according to his ability, surrender the hiring haul to unions?

DRIVE PLANNED TO UNIONIZE COLORED EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS LOCAL PLANTS; OVER 300 ATTENDED MEETING SUNDAY

Separate Organization Assured Negroes By Federation Representative When Their Membership Warrants Same; Some Workers View Movement With Alarm and Skepticism; Fear Mixed Laundry Organization

The American Federation of Labor launched a drive last week to unionize the laundry workers of Houston. A meeting was held last Sunday where over 300 workers attended. Plans were made to push the organization campaign to a speedy conclusion by appointing stewards in every plant to solicit membership among all workers regardless of color or race. Negro workers were promised that as soon as enough of the workers had taken out their membership, a separate union would be set up for colored workers under the protection of the A. F. of L.; but until such number had been secured, the Negroes would be a part of the general organization. Many of the workers seemed much alarmed and skeptical over the union movement. This is due to the discrimination against Negroes practiced by most of the crafts composing the Federation of Labor.

Negroes do approximately 70 percent of the laundry work in Houston and many of them are very much concerned as to the outcome of a general mixed organization. They say they are in doubt whether or not the laundry industries will be placed on a 50-50 basis just as the longshoremen who affiliated with the A. F. of L. If this step is taken, then the Negroes would lose approximately 30 percent of the work they already have. Others are seeking information that if a general laundry union is established, will the union contend that Negroes should be employed in laundries whose policy is not to hire many Negroes? There are some such laundries in Houston.

It was reported that several workers in one of the plants were threatened with violence and other intimidations when they did not sign up.

A General Movement to Organize All Workers

In the great struggle between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. for the control of labor has brought to Houston one of the most intensive campaigns to organize Negro workers of every type including domestics. A number of the organizations here that have been called company unions are determined to stand pat on their established methods of collective bargaining. The Labor News learned that this is true at the Hughes Tool Company where the workers are divided into four camps with about 2,400 belonging to the Welfare Organizations and about 1,000 to the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. The Negro organization known as the Hughes Tool Colored Workers' Club has been an independent unit voting with the Welfare Organizations.

S. P. Shop Craft

The S. P. Shop Craft, which is composed of the S. P. shop workers including about 700 Negroes, seem to be satisfied with their methods of handling their difficulties. The workers are holding meetings seeking information and interpretation of the Wagner Labor Act. They are not clear on what industries are affected by this new law. It is the opinion that such industries as the laundry industry is not covered under this law because they are not affected by inter-state commerce regulations.

NEGRO EMPLOYEES HUGHES COMPANY QUERY LABOR BODY

Negro Houston News

The Negro employees of Hughes Tool Company prepared and circulated a questionnaire to be answered before they would consider joining the American Federation of Labor which is seeking their membership. The questionnaire concerns the 800 Negro employees in each department of the company.

Below is the copy of the questionnaire circulated:

WHAT EVERY NEGRO WORKER AT HUGHES TOOL COMPANY SHOULD KNOW BEFORE JOINING A WHITE MAN'S UNION

I—Forge Shop

They should know: If colored heaters and helpers will keep their jobs and be promoted to blacksmith's wages with the rights and privileges of the white blacksmiths and helpers.

II—Foundry

They should know: If the colored sand handlers, cutters and grinders will keep their jobs and be promoted in wages as the white union men.

III—Heat Treating Department

They should know: If the colored workers in the heat treating department will keep their jobs according to qualfications and seniority as in the past, and get union scale of wages as the white man.

EVERY COLORED WORKER SHOULD KNOW! Will the white union pay sick benefits and hospitalization to their colored members.

CAN A QUALIFIED COLORED MEMBER borrow money from the union just as white members?

Colored Employees of
HUGHES TOOL COMPANY

Labor – 1937
Unions, Strikes, etc.

Texas.

100-DAY LABOR DEADLOCK TERMINATED THURSDAY AS THOUSANDS SCRAMBLE TO RETURN TO RANKS OF EMPLOYED GROUP.

Fully 250 Negro Longshoremen In Houston Idle Since October 30, 1936; West Coast Leaders To Truce and Sign New Contracts

Two hundred and fifty Negro longshoremen belonging to I. L. A. Local 1409 were jubilant as the West Coast maritime strike came to an end. These men who are practically destitute and partially on relief took no part in the strike but were forced out of work because the Gulf Steamship Company, the Luckenbach Steamship Company and the Texas Transport and Terminal which operate boats from the West Coast were involved in the strike. Two of the ships are in Houston and one in Lake Charles. The Wisconsin has been tied up here all that time with an inbound cargo of grain ready to unload.

San Francisco, Calif.—The costliest maritime strike in American history ended at 4:45 p. m. (Houston time) Thursday on a call destined to send 40,000 men and 239 ships into a scramble for long-lost jobs and trade in the world's markets, beginning Friday.

Union leaders called off the record-breaking 98-day walkout after reporting overwhelming worker approval of tenative agreements negotiated between their representatives and shipowners through months of haggling.

Cheers sounded rather freely along the rain-drenched waterfront as thousands of men, standing by in anticipation, heard the decision.

Employers, too busy to comment immediately, moved to make quick getaways with ships all ready for the sea and with cargoes awaiting unloading.

Strike leaders, likewise, refused comment and went into conference to arrange the signing of contracts designed to maintain peace for at least a year on waterfronts noted for labor strife.

National R. R. Ass'n To Convene Here May 19th to 24th

The local branch of the Colored Trainmens Association of America is making preparations to entertain the International Association of Railway Workers which will convene in Houston May 19 to 24, it was announced by S. W. Carline, general chairman of the arrangement committee. The following is the personnel of the committee on arrangements: S. W. Carline, chairman; T. A. Guyton, secretary; A. Campbell, treasurer; S. W. Brown, chairman of the reception committee; C. Hollins and Ed Sutton, co-chairmen of finance committee; C. W. Rice, chairman of publicity.

Leytotn Weston, international secretary from St. Louis, Mo., will meet with the local body Sunday, April 11.

MINISTERS ADVISE NEGROES TO ENTER LABOR UNIONS

HOUSTON.—Wednesday after investigation, the Committee on Employment and Relief of the Baptist Ministers Association released a statement to the press advising Negroes to enter labor unions wherever the privilege is given and equal rights as to labor and wages are guaranteed. By unions they meant the unions now vying for Negroes such as the American Federation of Labor and the Committee on Industrial Organization (CIO).

The committee had held a closed session at Good Hope Baptist church at which it went thoroughly into the question of Negroes joining unions. They admitted an Informer reporter to be present only on the agreement that nothing that transpired was to be published until specifically released by the committee. The investigation was serious and conducted in a manner worthy of some of the best brain in Houston. Representatives and exponents of various organizations and theories were invited before the committee and questioned. The questions were searching and to the point.

The meeting had been a special called session. The committee had power to reach conclusions and advise on labor and organizations as they affect Negroes. They interviewed C. W. Rice, E. L. Snyder, whom they also kept to assist in questioning the others; Rev. S. M. Smith and Freeman Everett, official organizer for the A. F. of L. The committee spent five minutes debating whether to put Carter Wesley out as an intruder. Some were for letting him stay if he promised not to report the proceedings until instructed to do so. Others wanted to exclude him anyhow. Finally they muzzled him and let him stay.

Rev. A. A. Lucas, pastor of Good Hope, was chairman and presided. The other members of the committee were Reverends J. W. Edwards A. L. Roach, E. S. Branch, R. E. McKeen, W. M. Sykes, M. L. Price, J. E Knox, J W. Cook, L. H. Simpson and G. H. Guyton.

The ministers have set a good example for other leaders to follow. No subject is more discussed in the press and in the places where men gather today than that of labor and the unions vying for control of labor. No subject can be of greater importance to a race made up 96% of laborers. And Negro workers have ever needed direction and advice more than they do today.

AGAIN WE DIFFER WITH C. W. RICE

Speaking before the N. A. A. C. P. Annual Conference in Detroit, C. W. Rice, publisher of the Labor News, bimonthly paper, warned against Negroes joining the CIO or the A. F. of L. Mr. Rice is consistent in his position, having taken that position at the beginning of the agitation over unions.

But, we think Mr. Rice is interested in his own independent union and that his effort to foster independent unions is blinding him to the larger issues. As an editor and as a leader in the labor movement, he should weigh the movements and their importance from the standpoint of Negroes generally.

For more than a score of years, we here in Texas have been complaining because Negroes were barred out of unions and thus discriminated against in hours and in wages. During all of these years, Negroes had the right and the opportunity to organize independent effort. In fact, Mr. Rice has been trying for all these score of years to get somewhere through independent unions. In all fairness and frankness, Mr. Rice's union is a very feeble organization and can hardly be said to be the bearer of the destiny of Negroes in Texas.

Looked at in the above light, it is evident that the destiny of Negroes is involved in the efforts and actions of the larger unions, comprising the A. F. of L. and the CIO. From a practical standpoint in Texas, that means the A. F. of L., for the reason that the CIO is not organizing any of the smaller industries in which Negroes take large shares. To advocate that Negroes ignore the CIO and the A. F. of L. is like advising the farmers in the Mississippi Delta to ignore the generous, though sometimes destructive, waters of the Mississippi and depend entirely upon the small creeks and springs.

There are, of course, company unions or independent unions which are frequently fostered by companies which are better than no unions. This form of union will last until the A. F. of L. has finished organizing other plants and then, surely as night follows day, the A. F. of L. will destroy the independent unions and take charge.

The issue is clear. We advocate Negroes' joining the general union such as the A. F. of L. and, if and when the CIO comes into the state, the CIO. Mr. Rice advocates avoidance of these unions. Without spleen, the proper thing to do is to keep discussing the matter and give the readers and citizens a chance to make their own decisions when all of the facts are in. We differ with Mr. Rice, but are not desirous to stop him from stating his position.

Texas Labor Council Seats Race Delegate

BEAUMONT, Texas (ANP) —History was made here in Texas recently when for the first time a colored union labor delegate met with white delegates of the International Theatre and Stage Employes Union of Texas.

The only colored delegate among nearly a hundred whites, Lee A. Lewis, business agent for Local 279, a colored union of Houston, affiliated with the A. F. of L., was accepted freely and openly this state convention.

Scheduled to be held at a local white hotel, the coming of Lewis caused the hotel management to demur at his presence. White delegates told the management that if Lewis could not enter the premises, then they would take their meeting somewhere else. Lewis was admitted to the hotel convention room and later seated at the banquet table with the whites.

Lewis is a member of the executive committee of the Houston local, composed of whites mostly. He i- the man directly responsible for the strong fight put up by colored people of Houston to force employment of colored motion picture operators in exclusive Negro houses. Through his efforts twelve men are regularly employed at union rates.

Negro Union Delegate Sits In Texas Council

For First Time a Negro Meets With White Delegates to Settle Problems of the International Theatre and Stage Employes Union of Texas.

BEAUMONT, Texas, Aug. 5— (By John H. Thompson for ANP)—History was made here in Texas, recently when for the first time a colored union labor delegate met with white delegates of the International Theatre and Stage Employes Union of Texas.

The only colored delegate among nearly a hundred whites, Lee A. Lewis, business agent for Local 179, a colored union of Houston, affiliated with the A. F. of L., was accepted freely and openly at this state convention.

Scheduled to be held at a local hotel, the coming of Lewis caused the hotel management to demur at his presence. White delegates told the management that if Lewis could not enter the premises, then they would take their meeting somewhere else. Lewis was admitted to the hotel convention room and later was seated at the banquet table with the whites.

Lewis is a member of the executive committee of the Houston local, composed of whites mostly. He is the man directly responsible for the strong fight put up by colored people of Houston to force employment of colored motion picture operators in exclusive Negro houses. Through his efforts twelve men are regularly employed at union rates.

LABOR ORGANIZER GETS COAT OF TAR

Incident Follows Showing of Movie in Park.

DALLAS, Texas, Aug. 9.—(UP) A man identifying himself as Herbert Harris, a labor organizer from New Haven, Mo., was tarred and feathered by an unidentified group of men here tonight.

The incident followed a fight at Trinity Park where motion pictures of labor demonstrations in other cities were being shown.

During the melee an automobile on which the film projection machine was mounted was overturned.

Former Dining Car Porter Head Gives Historical Data About Body; Explains Resignation

FT. WORTH, Tex.—(SNS)—

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an article written by Ocie Campbell, former president of the Local 374 of the Dining Car Waiters and Cooks Union, giving a part history of the organization and relating why he resigned from the presidency of the said union:

Referring to the article that appeared in the Fort Worth Mind Oct 16, 1937, I will make an attempt to answer it.

This is [illegible] history of Local 374. They were organized sometime in 1933, and better known as a company union. They were operating without a charter, seal, or set of books. In 1934, I affiliated myself with the union and they gave me the power to investigate the union. After investigation, I found that it was a company union and that we could not be recognized. I then reorganized them and sent for a charter which we received with a seal and a set of books. Then I went to an attorney and had a contract drawn up. I presented a letter to the superintendent of dining cars for a conference. In five days the conference was granted and the contract was presented. The agreement was signed for 240 hours per month. I will name some of the benefits that we received from the agreement.

First, the second cooks are receiving $460.00 more per year than they were July 1, 1934. Second, the pantryman $204.00 per year more; Third the waiters do not pay for the loss of silver; Fourth, we all have seniority rights which we never had before; Fifth, 16 2-3 cut in wage scale was restored to all employees in this local; Sixth, on August 27, 1937, all employees were given $144.00 more per year; Seventh, some of the employees were discharged from the service. I took the grievance to the general office in Dallas, Texas and they were reinstated with full seniority rights. Since I have given up general chairmanship, some of the employes have been discharged from the service. The very first grievance they took up was with the wrong person, who was not in authority to replace them ;therefore, they still remain out of the service. I am wondering if this is formal or informal.

As far as getting compensation from the local as was stated in the October issue is a mistake. I was paid only for the time I worked. I was guaranteed 240 hours per month from the company, that I did not make because of laying off to attend to the Local's business. I was often cut short of 35 hours of work that the company nor Local did not pay me for. Not only was cut short of hours, but also pension, and was completely cut out of overtime. I served three years under these conditions. The secretary was voted a salary two years ago and never wrote a single letter; that I had to do.

I had to fight the Texas and Pacific Railway Company for our rights; I had to fight the Office Staff of Local 374 and its entire membership for our rights; also had to fight to hold my own rights and I had to fight the international for our rights. All of this was done (free). I did not receive any help from either side. Anyone who fights the management of a Railway Company has no Sunday School Job.

When Local 374 offered me $5.00 per month salary, and said that I could not be found, they were right, because that was less than a nickel per member. With the many problems that had affected them and had been settled, and many more problems that were yet to be settled, and looking for me to appear in a meeting sometimes in September was just like a child battling in the forest, crying for the moon.

I would like to make this statement too: President Green of the A. F. of L. stated that the color bar would be struck out of craft unions, but if I understand the by-laws of section 20 when I was met in New York August 1936, this section about the color bar was struck out. It now states: Any workers in craft unions and no colored workers. Mr. Green should go by Robert's Rules of Order.

Signed: Ocie Campbell.

Texas Labor Council Seats Race Delegate

BEAUMONT, Texas (ANP) —History was made here in Texas recently when for the first time a colored union labor delegate met with white delegates of the International Theatre and Stage Employe Union of Texas.

The only colored delegate among nearly a hundred whites, Lee A. Lewis, business agent for Local 279, a colored union of Houston, affiliated with the A. F. of L., was accepted freely and openly this state convention.

Scheduled to be held at a local white hotel, the coming of Lewis caused the hotel management to demur at his presence. White delegates told the management that if Lewis could not enter the premises, then they would take their meeting somewhere else. Lewis was admitted to the hotel convention room and later seated at the banquet table with the whites.

Lewis is a member of the executive committee of the Houston local, composed of whites mostly. He is the man directly responsible for the strong fight put up by colored people of Houston to force employment of colored motion picture operators in exclusive Negro houses. Through his efforts twelve men are regularly employed at union rates.

Negro Union Delegate Sits In Texas Council

For First Time a Negro Meets With White Delegates to Settle Problems of the International Theatre and Stage Employes Union of Texas.

BEAUMONT, Texas, Aug. 5.—(By John H. Thompson for ANP)—History was made here in Texas, recently when for the first time a colored union labor delegate met with white delegates of the International Theatre and Stage Employes Union of Texas.

The only colored delegate among nearly a hundred whites, Lee A. Lewis, business agent for Local 179, a colored union of Houston, affiliated with the A. F. of L., was accepted freely and openly at this state convention.

Scheduled to be held at a local hotel, the coming of Lewis caused the hotel management to demur at his presence. White delegates told the management that if Lewis could not enter the premises, then they would take their meeting somewhere else. Lewis was admitted to the hotel convention room and later was seated at the banquet table with the whites.

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LABOR ORGANIZER GETS COAT OF TAR

Incident Follows Showing of Movie in Park.

DALLAS, Texas, Aug. 9.—(UP) A man identifying himself as Herbert Harris, a labor organizer from New Haven, Mo., was tarred and feathered by an unidentified group of men here tonight.

The incident followed a fight at Trinity Park where motion pictures of labor demonstrations in other cities were being shown.

During the melee an automobile on which the film projection machine was mounted was overturned.

Former Dining Car Porter Head Gives Historical Data About Body; Explains Resignation

FT. WORTH, Tex.—(SNS)—

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an article written by Ocie Campbell, former president of the Local 374 of the Dining Car Waiters and Cooks Union, giving a part history of the organization and relating why he resigned from the presidency of the said union:

Referring to the article that appeared in the Fort Worth Mind Oct 16, 1937, I will make an attempt to answer it.

This is a brief history of Local 374. They were organized sometime in 1933, and better known as a company union. They were operating without a charter, seal, or set of books. In 1934, I affiliated myself with the union and they gave me the power to investigate the union. After investigation, I found that it was a company union and that we could not be recognized. I then reorganized them and sent for a charter which we received with a seal and a set of books. Then I went to an attorney and had a contract drawn up. I presented a letter to the superintendent of dining cars for a conference. In five days the conference was granted and the contract was presented. The agreement was signed for 240 hours per month. I will name some of the benefits that we received from the agreement.

First, the second cooks are receiving $460.00 more per year than they were July 1, 1934. Second, the pantryman $204.00 per year more; Third the waiters do not pay for the loss of silver; Fourth, we all have seniority rights which we never had before; Fifth, 16 2-3 cut in wage scale was restored to all employees in this local; Sixth, on August 27, 1937, all employees were given $144.00 more per year; Seventh, some of the employees were discharged from the service. I took the grievance to the general office in Dallas, Texas and they were reinstated with full seniority rights. Since I have given up general chairmanship, some of the employes have been discharged from the service. The very first grievance they took up was with the wrong person, who was not in authority to replace them ;therefore, they still remain out of the service. I am wondering if this is formal or informal.

As far as getting compensation from the local as was stated in the October issue is a mistake. I was paid only for the time I worked. I was guaranteed 240 hours per month from the company, that I did not make because of laying off to attend to the Local's business. I was often cut short of 35 hours of work that the company nor Local did not pay me for. Not only was cut short of hours, but also pension, and was completely cut out of over-time. I served three years under these conditions. The secretary was voted a salary two years ago and never wrote a single letter; that I had to do.

I had to fight the Texas and Pacific Railway Company for our rights; I had to fight the Office Staff of Local 374 and its entire membership for our rights; also had to fight to hold my own rights and I had to fight the international for our rights. All of this was done (free). I did not receive any help from either side. Anyone who fights the management of a Railway Company has no Sunday School Job.

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I would like to make this statement too: President Green of the A. F. of L. stated that the color bar would be struck out of craft unions, but if I understand the by-laws of section 20 when I was met in New York August 1936, this section about the color bar was struck out. It now states: Any workers in craft unions and no colored workers. Mr. Green should go by Robert's Rules of Order.

Signed: Ocie Campbell.

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United Automobile Workers of America.

Negroes' Mortality High In Ford Foundry Trap

Daily Worker
10-5-39

Auto Union Drive Is Seen Fight for Their Rights

By Ben Davis, Jr.

ARTICLE II.

The organizational drive of the United Automobile Workers of America is making rapid strides at the Ford plants despite a vicious campaign of vigilante terror and violence against Negro and white Ford workers.

Daily Worker

As thousands are braving the spy systems and anti-labor violence of the steel barons in joining the CIO steel workers union for decent living standards, so are thousands of Negroes, with their white fellow workers, joining the UAWA.

In the Ford foundries where the Negro workers "die like flies" from the speed-up and heat, the Negro workers are strongly organized into Local 281 of the UAWA. In these foundry death-traps more than 7,500 Negroes are employed.

10-5-37

A recent estimate showed that of the 200,000 UAWA members in the Detroit area, more than 7,500 are Negroes with 18 of 34 of the UAWA locals having Negro membership and administrative officers.

Daily Worker

Long denied the opportunity to become an integral part of the organized labor movement by the jim-crow policies of William Green and his reactionary A. F. of L. executive council, the Negro workers are entering the CIO unions because of splendid fight against discrimination of every sort. As a matter of fact the success of the CIO will aid the fight against discrimination and for democracy and industrial unionism inside the A. F. of L.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and the Negro workers who have joined the UAWA in the Detroit area are already beginning to taste the fruits of their long fight for full equality in the organized trade union movement.

Two of the most prominent members of the UAWA in Detroit are Paul Silas Kirk, a Negro organizer, and Lonnie Williams, Sec. of the UAWA sub-organizing committee in Detroit. In the Cadillac Motor company where 65 per cent of the 4,000 workers are members of the UAWA, the chief shop steward is Walter Wall, a Negro who was also assistant chairman of the Strike Committee. In addition there are 15 Negro shop stewards in the plant.

In the Chrysler plant, with 85 per cent of 10,000 workers in the union, Samuel Fanroy, a Negro, is chief shop steward of the Sanding Department, as well as a member of the executive board of the local and also a member of the UAWA District Council. There are more than ten shop stewards throughout the Chrysler plant.

In the Michigan steel foundy, Negroes constitute approximately 50 per cent of the workers. The union's chief negotiator with the management is Samuel Lawson, a Negro. Two Negroes, Clarence Jones and Jack Harrison, head two of the union's departmental committees.

In Flint, Mich., 80 per cent of the Negroes employed at the Buick plant are members of the UAWA. Here Henry Clark, a Negro, is an organizer while others are shop committeemen.

In numerous incidents the UAWA has taken a firm stand against jim-crowism and discrimination inside the union. Recently at the Chevrolet plant a white worker under the influence of the reactionary "race supremacy" poison, objected to the attendance of Negroes at the union picnic. The union later held educational meetings where it convinced its membership that discrimination was the policy of the auto employers and went on record against all manifestations of race prejudice against Negro workers.

As a result Negro members attended the picnic on a basis of full equality and many of them were elected by both Negro and white members to the picnic committee.

Wherever the U.A.W.A. has signed agreements with the auto companies the wages and working conditions of all the workers in the plant—Negro and white—have been improved. A case in point is the Buick foundry — a pneumonia-breeding "Black Hole of Calcutta" for the Negro workers—where the U.A.W.A. has raised the wages of the Negroes from 48 cents an hour to 85 and 90 cents an hour, with a weekly pay day instead of a fortnightly pay day.

This partial record of the achievements of the U.A.W.A. in the fight for the Negro and white workers of Detroit, indicates clearly that the place of the Negro people is in the camp of the C.I.O. and the other progressive forces—which are today the spearhead of the people's fight against the reactionary open shoppers. It is also in keeping with the policy of the union as stated by Homer Martin, president of the U. A.W.A., who said at the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Detroit last July:

Negro members are being taken in (the U.A.W.A.), elected to office, are serving on committees, and participate equally in the function of the union and in the enjoyment of the benefits which that organization brings its members." Having made a fine start in this direction, undoubtedly as the U.A.W.A. and other C.I.O. drives progress the Negro workers will share even greater in the administration and leadership of these unions.

Recognizing that the growing unity of the auto workers in the U.A.W.A. is the cornerstone of the battle for better conditions, Ford has unleashed a fierce campaign of thug terror against Negro and white workers in his plants. One of his main henchmen is Donald Marshall, Negro member of Ford's anti-labor army—to "take special care" of Negro workers who assert their democratic legal right to join a trade union. Marshall is the Negro face of Ford's jim-crow company union —the Ford Loyal Workers Club.

Stooging for Ford, this Negro "uncle Tom" sought to intimidate all the Negro ministers in Detroit in an attempt to prevent the N.A.A.C.P. from holding its convention in their churches—because of the tremendous sentiment in the N.A.A.C.P. for the U.A.W.A. and other C.I.O. unions. Such base treachery Marshall carried out despite the fact that N.A.A.C.P. convention largely centered around the struggle for the enactment of the Federal anti-lynching bill, which it sponsors.

Throughout the UAWA campaign Marshall's role has been to apologize to the Negro people for Ford's sweatshop conditions, for his system of spying upon and hounding Negro workers, for the discrimination and jim-crowism in the Ford empire. In other words, what he is attempting to do is to chain the Negro people to the chariot of the reactionary Liberty-League forces which the American people — Negro and white — repudiated so decisively last November. This is the essence of Marshall's appeal to the Negro people in Detroit to be "loyal" to Ford.

But in sharp contrast to the reactionary Mr. Ford's type of "loyalty" is the growing unity and mutual loyalty between the Negro people, labor and the progressive forces of the country in the fast developing progressive movement against fascism and reaction. The success of the CIO carries with it

Worst Jobs in Plant Given Negro Men— Jim Crow Cited

not only a better life for the toilers of the nation—but it will be a historic step forward in behalf of full social, economic and political equality of the Negro people.

This fact is reflected in the rapidly-increasing support for the CIO among the Negro people today. Scores of Negro newspapers, including the Amsterdam News, the Pittsburgh Courier, and the Afro-American, three of the most influential publications, have endorsed the CIO.

Commenting on the UAWA organizational campaign, the Courier stated editorially on Sept. 18:

"CIO leader John L. Lewis now announces that 500,000 workers in steel have been organized by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. In every organized plant this has meant increased pay, shorter hours, seniority rights and industrial democracy, and of particular interest to us is the fact that these advantages have come to thousands of Negro steel workers from Birmingham to Pittsburgh and points between.

"The unionization of all the big automobile companies by the CIO affiliated Automobile Workers Union has done the same thing for thousands of Negro workers who help produce the country's automobiles. . . . It has set a healthy example to organized labor in America and done more than any single agency in the history of the country's labor movement to eliminate the bi-racialism which has so slowed the emancipation of the workers from industrial feudalism.

"In the complaints about violence which occurred here and there in a year of hectic organization, many of our people have lost sight of the fact that this year hundreds of Negro workers have been privileged to rise to positions of leadership and help negotiate contracts for wages and hours with some of the mightiest corporations in America.

"Perhaps never before have colored people played so important a part in shaping the course of basic affairs in the United States. They have previously worked, but had nothing to say about what they should get for that work or how long they should work to get it.

"The effect of this drive (CIO) is already apparent on race relations in many parts of the country. It has been demonstrated to white labor that if it will meet Negro labor half way the loyalty of the latter can be always counted upon. Suspicion and race hatred have been allayed.

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United Electrical Radio Workers of America.

300 Negroes In Electrical Union To Vote On Pres.

8-5-37

The United Electrical Radio Workers of America Local No. 1104 will elect its permanent officers at the Union Hall, 6310a Easton avenue, Friday and Saturday, August 6 and 7. The polls will be open Friday from 7:00 a. m. to 1:00 a. m. (Saturday) and will re-open Saturday from 7:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m.

The C. I. O. has about three hundred colored workers employed at Wagner's Electric Corporation who signed a union contract July 16, granting them a wage increase of about $35,000 a year.

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United Federal Workers of America

SIMPSON TATE HEAD OF U.S. WORKERS BODY

New Organization Plans War On Jim Crow In Civil Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13—The United Federal Workers of America announced this week the formation of a committee for organization of Race employees of the federal government. U. Simpson Tate, accountant for the United Federal Workers of America is chairman of the committee.

John Davis, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, will act as assistant chairman. Other members of the committee include Beverly W. Lawson, prominent Washington attorney; George Rycraw, administrator of the new Negro Alliance, and Miss Marjorie McKenzie, social worker.

The United Federal Workers of America, which is affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization is opposed to discrimination in any form in the federal service. All employees are subject to discriminatory practices at some time, but the United Federal Workers of America recognizes that Race workers are subject to a special and unremitting discrimination. The elimination of discrimination, whatever its form, is an integral part of the program of the United Federal Workers of America.

To Fight Jim Crow

The consistent denial of promotion to Race workers, their relegation to deadened jobs, their assignment to undesirable positions, all of these are forms of discrimination which the United Federal Workers of America will strive to eliminate.

In addition, it will work for the elimination of laws and practices which permit of discrimination. An example of this form of legislation is the requirement that photographs must be furnished with civil service applications.

The United Federal Workers of America was formed on June 22, 1937, when it was issued a charter by the Committee for Industrial Organization. Jacob Baker, former assistant administrator of the Works Progress Administration, was appointed provisional president of the new union.

All civilian employees of the federal government, with the exception of postal employees and employees who have the right to hire and fire are eligible for membership in the United Federal Workers of America. Prospective membership of the new union is 800,000.

Regional Officers

Permanent regional offices of the United Federal Workers of America have been established in Philadelphia at 1420 N. Broad street, with Alfred J. Van Tassel as regional organizer; in New York at 1133 Broadway, with Miss Ann Wharton as regional organizer; in Chicago at 330 So. Ashland boulevard, with Irwin Elber as regional organizer; and in St. Louis at Seventh and Chestnut streets, Title Guaranty building, with James T. Nash as regional organizer.

National offices of the United Federal Workers of America are located in Washington, D. C., 513 Transportation building. Inquiries may be directed to the national office or to any Committee for Industrial Organization office.

Rights Of Al Workers Hel To Be The Sam

Leaflet Is Mailed T Government Workers of Color

Journal and Guide Bure

WASHINGTON, D. C. — T United Federal Workers of Amer ca, an affiliate of the Committ for Industrial Organization, making a determined drive for co ored members

A leaflet mailed to colored Federal employees recently appeals to them to join the C. I. O. organization so as to correct their grievances, eliminate discrimination and better their working conditions. The leaflet states:

HIT DISCRIMINATION

"The Committee for Industrial Organization does not ask for passports from its members. It does not ask for their pictures. It does not select the names of its members from a panel of three. The unions that constitute the Committee for Industrial Organization are unions for workers, they do not discriminate against workers.

"The unions that constitute the Committee for Industrial Organization oppose discrimination against workers whether the discrimination is based upon race, sex, religion, political affiliation, or whatnot.

"But the Committee for Industrial Organization does not defend the rights of Negroes because they are Negroes. They defend their rights because they are workers. Discrimination against workers anywhere is like a contagious disease. Once discrimination appears it threatens not only the group discriminated against, but all workers. An effective union of workers must defend all workers—must have the support of all workers.

UNION OF ALL WORKERS

"To the Negroes in the Government service, the United Federal Workers of America says, 'This is your union, because you are Government workers.'

"The United Federal Workers of America is the union of all the workers in the Federal service, whatever their race, whatever their religion, whatever their sex, their religious beliefs, or their political affiliation.

"This is the union through which all Government workers can s their employee problem. This is the union through which they can solve the general problems of all Government workers, the specific problems of a group of Government workers, or the single problem of a single Government worker.

"To Negroes, and to all other Government workers in the Federal service, the United Federal Workers of America says that through it you can end discrimination in the Government service, whether the discrimination is by picture, panel, or prejudice.

APPEAL TO RACE

"Through the United Federal Workers of America, Negroes in the Government service, and all the other workers in the Government service, can secure equal opportunities. They can open the blind alleys in Federal employment—they can push aside the barriers prejudice has created—they can establish equality of opportunity for all persons in the Government service, in fact, as well as in law.

"To the Negroes in the Government service then, the United Federal Workers of America says 'Join the United Federal Workers of America. You cannot go ahead in the Federal service unless you are members of a union that contains all Government workers, and Government workers cannot go ahead unless they have your support'."

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United Government Employes, Inc.

Edgar G. Brown Addresses Thanks To Senate Group For Employment Aid

Edgar G. Brown, president of the United Government Employes, Inc., appeared before the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Appropriations of the United States Senate in behalf of the 1000 employes in the laundry and dry cleaning plants of the War Dept. who are now receiving from $1.00 a day to $600.00 a year as regular full time employes of the U. S. government.

In his opening statement before the committee, Mr. Brown said: "May I express my profound personal thanks and appreciation to the chairman, Senator Copeland, Senator McAdoo, Senator Thomas, Senator Reynolds, Senator Russell and the other subcommittee members for this opportunity to present to you the distressing condition of more than 1,000 men and women laundry employes receiving $1 a day or less as regular full-time employes of the United States Government, up to $600 a year. This is the lowest paid group of Federal employes, and they are now working in the 34 laundries, and 5 dry cleaning establishments, 29 of them in centinental United States and located in every part of the country, 2 in the Philippines, 1 in Hawaii, and the insular possessions under the War Department."

Senator McAdoo expressed great surprise to learn that there were federal government employes receiving as little as $1.00 a day. He said, "I am frank to say that I would not for a minute stand for paying anyone $150 a year."

In the course of the discussion Senator Russell of Georgia mentioned that he had offered an amendment that would give a differential of not more than 15 per cent for labor in different parts of the country, and mentioned to Senator McAdoo that in California people doing the same kind of work as those in Georgia received 125 per cent more than the Georgia laborers, to which the Senator from California replied, "That shows we are a civilized community in California."

THIS $50,000 INCREASE IN WAGES for the laundry workers recommended by Mr. Brown, United Government Employes head was approved BY THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE on June 16, 1937, and reported to the U. S. Senate for passage. It will give an additional $60 to $120 a year increase to these colored employes who are employed by the War Department and reciving $1.00 a day up to $600.00 a year.

Among the workers benefited in continental United States are, 93 IN FT. BENNING, GA., 22 in Ft Bragg, N. C., 5 in Ft. Brown, Tex. 16 in Ft. Monroe, Va., 5 in Ft Moultrie, S. C., 37 in Ft. Myer., and 4 in Ft. Screven, Ga., who will benefit by this $50,000 increase, according to Mr. Brown.

At the conclusion of his statement before the Subcommittee, Mr. Brown mentioned that the Committee was considering giving a rise to the mechanics employed in the War Department who are receiving $1.14 an hour, while the workers for whom he was pleading received less than $1.00 a day, to which Senator Copeland replied, "You have made a good statement Mr. Brown."

Senator McAdoo added at this point, "I think that laundry work is awfully hard work for a dollar a day."

In response to a statement made by Senator Duffy of Wisconsin at the Senate hearings on the War Department appropriation, that, in some places where you have colored people in that locality receiving no more than $1 a day in private industry, Senator McAdoo replied, "do not care whether they are white or black. It makes no difference to me. I am just talking about this Government, as a government, standing for such a pittance to people under conditions that I think are unjustifiable. It does not take much money to remedy it."

Mr. Brown ended the statement by saying, "Mr. Chairman, I may say that there has been an intimation here by Senator Reynolds and Senator Russell in connection with the minimum wage and maximum hour, and I want to say that they can count on the organized Negroes, especially those in the U. G. E. and affiliated groups, in the North, South, East and West, standing just the same as all other workers for equal pay for the same work, regardless of race, creed or tradition. This is now true in the post offices and other departments of the Government, regardless of geographic consideration. We are unequivocally back of President Roosevelt's New Deal for all the American people."

Mrs. Elizabeth H. McDuffie, treasurer of the U. G. E. originally took up the case of the four members of the organization receiving $600 a year at Fort Myer Virginia, in the Army laundry.

United Rubber Workers Union.

Labor-1937

Unions, Strikes, etc.

Rubber Union Pays Tribute to Negro Workers in Resolution On Unity

By Lawrence Emery

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 19.—Delegates to the second annual convention of the United Rubber Workers Union have continued to adopt a series of resolutions marking their organization as one of the most progressive in the country.

Paying tribute to the outstanding militancy of Negro workers during the great strike struggles of the past year, and recognizing the contribution of Negro workers in the entire work of the union, the convention unanimously adopted a resolution pledging all locals "to promote harmony, understanding and solidarity between workers regardless of race, color, or creed, and to oppose each and every measure of discrimination directed against any section of the great labor movement."

The record of the Firestone Local was held up as an example to be followed on this question, and was declared to be a precedent in bringing about "better understanding and solidarity and has dealt a blow to the shameful practices of segregation and discrimination against the Negro people, thereby adding strength to the union."

AID SCOTTSBORO BOYS

This spirit of growing understanding of the need for unity between Negro and white workers is further expressed in the fact that three Negro workers are attending the convntion as accredited delegates and have been placed in important convention committees where they have made a real contribution. Last year not a single Negro delegate was in the convention.

When a motion was made to include the Scottsboro boys in a resolution calling for financial assistance to Tom Mooney because of "the close political connection between these cases," as it was put by one delegate, it was unanimously adopted. This is all the more heartening because of the fact that numerous rubber workers hail from the deep south.

When the Resolutions Committee today began to report on a resolution which would bar married women from employment in industry, a delegate promptly moved that it not be considered, and the motion carried by an overwhelming majority amid applause and cheers

FOR COURT PLAN

A few moments later a resolution demanding equal pay for equal work by women workers was unanimously adopted.

The convention also put itself four square behind President Roosevelt's Court Reform plan, and pledged itself to do "everything within the power of ourselves and the United Rubber Workers of America to make the passage of the above measure possible in the next Congress."

Earlier a resolution in favor of a referendum on the Court Plan was rejected because "it would take too much time." The resolution scored "the reactionary forces in our country, such as the Liberty League, Hearst, most of the press, the backward-looking, shallow politicians, and the out and out betrayers of the people's interests in Congress" who killed the Court Reform measure in the last session.

Another crack was taken at vigilante movements when a resolution was adopted calling for a La-Follete investigation of these bands. The same resolution condemned Governor Davey of Ohio and called for his defeat in the polls at the coming elections.

BACK OFFICIALS

Enforcement and amplification of the Wagner Act, abolition of child labor, organization of white collar workers, support of the Bernard-CCC Camp Bill, formation of a Junior Unionists League, against racketeering in the labor movement and substitution of week work for piece work throughout the rubber industry were other matters acted upon in resolutions.

The first note of disharmony thrown into the convention was promptly thrown out again by action of an overwhelming majority of the delegates when a resolution was offered providing that the salaries of officers could not be raised.

"The less said about this resolution," said L. S. Buckmaster, chairman of the Resolutions Committee "the better for everybody. It contains many misstatements of fact and expressions of opinion better left unsaid."

A motion to table it was defeated in order that five minutes later the convention could reject the entire resolution by a crushing vote.

Once before, when a delegate rose to inquire in an unfriendly manner about expenses of Executive officers, debate was quickly shut off when the previous question was moved. This is taken as convincing evidence that the convention is united behind the present officers of the union and is thoroughly satisfied with their stewardship for the past year. It is also looked upon as indicating that a small group seeking to cast reflections on the present leadership will make little headway.

LEAGUE SPEAKER CHEERED

At the close of Thursday night's session, the convention gave a warm reception to Sam Swerdloff, General Field Organizer for the American League Against War and Fascism, who described the work of the League and invited full cooperation from the URW.

In closing Swerdloff said that "the raising of the red scare against our organization is proof to us that we have been effective in our task of stopping or holding back reaction. If the label of 'red' puts us in the camp of the progressive forces generally and the labor movement which has also been so labeled, then we accept the classification, because that is where we belong."

This was greeted with enthusiastic applause, and it is certain that the URW will be represented at the People's Congress for Democracy and Peace called by the League in Pittsburgh for November 26.

Late today the Resolutions Committee completed its report, having gone through a total of 129 resolutions.

The convention is now considering revisions and amendments to the Union's constitution. Proposals to be considered under this head include increasing the per capita tax on the locals, giving district councils more authority than at present, and enlarging the International Executive Board to give representation to newly organized territories. Following this, the convention will elect officers.

RUBBER UNION RE-ELECTS DALRYMPLE

Daily Worker 9-20-37

House Is Defeated as Candidate for the Executive Board

By Lawrence Emery

(Special to the Daily Worker)

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 19.—Sherman H. Dalyrymple was reelected President of the United Rubber Workers Union by acclamation as the 2nd annual convention of the organization began to name its leaders for the coming year late Saturday.

Dalrymple, who now enters his third consecutive term as president was given a thundering ovation by the enthusiastic delegates, who rose and cheered for several minutes following his election.

Frank Grillo, popular secretary-treasurer, was also reelected by acclamation.

Thomas F. Burns, the union's only vice-president, was reelected defeating John D. House, president of the Goodyear Local, by a vote of 321¾ to 94¼. House is at present a member of the Executive Board.

CALLAHAN ELECTED

Following the selection of the general officers, the convention proceeded to the election of its executive board members. Although the method of elections adopted by the convention is extremely slow and cumbersome, it is the most democratic devised. All candidates must be elected by majority vote, and balloting is secret. When more than two run on one ballot the low man drops out, and a run-off is held. Any candidate defeated on one ballot may be nominated to run again on the next.

Proposals from the floor to adopt a printed ballot in order to save time would not be considered by chairman Dalrymple, who declared that none but the most democratic method would be used. For thorough and complete democracy throughout its sessions, the Rubber Worker convention stands as a model.

N. H. Eagle, full time organizer, was re-elected to the Board in the first balloting, defeating L. S. Buckmaster who sought re-election.

L. L. Callahan, president of the Goodrich local, was elected to the Board for the first time in the second balloting. He was also opposed by Buckmaster, and by George B. Roberts, California organizer. In the run-off between Callahan and Buckmaster, Callahan won by four votes.

ROLL CALL ON INCREASE

Earlier the convention took its first roll-call vote on a motion to increase the Board from six members to eight, proposed by Robert Hill of Detroit. The measure lost 377 to 34. Delegates representing the big Goodrich local of Akron with 88 votes, were instructed by their membership to vote against the proposal.

A second roll call vote came when it was moved by J. F. Delaney of the Goodrich Local that the constitution be amended to the effect that paid organizers of the Union could not become members of the board. Eagle, Marchiando and Camelio, present board members, are also full time organizers.

The proposal provoked lengthy discussion, but was overwhelmingly defeated by 252 votes to 185.

A proposal by the Laws Committee that the location of general headquarters be determined by conventions from year to year was rejected, and Akron specified as permanent headquarters.

GREET ROOSEVELT

Differences of opinion exist over proposals for increasing the per capita tax and for broadening the authority of District Councils.

John B. Eaton, President of the West Virginia Industrial Council, addressed the convention and declared that when AFL unions in his state were expelled by Bill Green "because we wouldn't expel militant members, then Bill just kicked us into better luck, as the expression goes. We are growing faster now in membership than we ever did before."

The Convention also dispatched the following wire to President Roosevelt: "We greet your Constitutional Day speech as a reaffirmation of your determination to bring to the people of the United States the liberty and security which are rightfully theirs. Be assured the URW stands firmly behind your program to liberalize the Su-

preme Court and to secure passage and approval of social legislation."

The United Rubber Workers second annual convention today re-elected five of the members of the union's International Executive Board, and replaced John D. House by L. L. Callahan.

Composition of the board is as follows: N. H. Engle, International organizer, Dist. No. 1, Akron, Ohio; L. L. Callahan, president, Goodrich Local 5, Akron; Salvatore Camelio, organizer, New England District; Walter Walsh, president, Local No. 1, Newark, Ohio; John Marchiando, Jr., organizer, Trenton, N. J.; L. S Buckmaster, president, Firestone Local, Akron.

There was stiff competition in the rivalry for board seats, the voting going through seven ballots. Efforts of the West Coast to achieve representation on the board, with organizer George B. Roberts running on four of the ballots, met with no success.

Virginia.
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Labor-1937
Unions, Strikes, etc.

2nd Tobacco Strike Group Win Substantial Increases

The second major labor battle staged by colored laborers in the city of Richmond during the current organization drive in the city culminated in a victory for the workers here on Monday of this week when J. N. Vaughan, owner of the J. N. Vaughan Tobacco Company, capitulated to the compromise demands of his striking employees. Practically all of the demands of the strikers were met by the management, the only compromise being made in connection with the amount of increase demanded in the rates of pay. Believing that the substantial increases won from the management were sufficient to warrant their return to work, with the expectation of demanding further increases in the fall, the strikers decided Monday evening to return to their jobs upon the call of the management.

Win Substantial Increases

The substantial increases won by the workers who went out on strike 460 strong last Thursday after the management refused to grant their demands for higher pay or to negotiate further with them, insures that the lowest paid worker in the plant will in future draw a minimum of $6 or $7 per week, whereas in the past the minimum has been around $3 or $4. In addition they will only be required to work 8 hours to receive the new weekly stipend, whereas in the past they worked from 10 to 12 and 14 hours.

Hand stemmers who handled tobacco by the pound formerly received 6c per pound for stemming but will under the new management receive 8c for both burley and bright tobacco, and those stemming "drop-leaf" or "trash," as it is commonly called in the industry, who formerly received 7c will in the future receive 9c per pound. Job women workers who formerly received 15c per hour under the new agreement receive 20c per hour, and men workers who formerly received 25c per hour now receive 30c.

Eight Hour Day; Forty Hour Week

The strikers also won recognition of their union as the sole bargaining agency in the plant, they won an eight-hour day, a forty-hour week, with no Saturday work, and pay of time-and one-half for all overtime over the eight hour day or the forty-hour week.

Vaughan Talks Freely to Reporter

Mr. Vaughan, who appears to be a kindly old gentleman at heart, told the PLANET reporter that the adoption of the eight-hour day hurt him worse than anything else connected with the negotiations. He said he had always tried to consider the interest of his workers and succeeded in having the members of the negotiating committee representing the employees directly from the plant substantiate his statement that he had never been overbearing in his attitude and that he had always been kindly disposed toward his employees. He promised also that he would not attempt to push out of the service the older employees who could not measure up in efficiency to the younger employees, pointing out that some of the more aged employees could produce more and better work than the younger ones.

No More Boiler Water for Employes

The complaint of many of the employees that they were forced to drink water from the boiler will no longer be in order, as the owner of the plant agreed to put in drinking fountains for the employees, to employ a woman whose sole duty it will be to keep the women's lavatories clean, to generally improve the sanitary condition of the plant, to keep an entrance open which gives easy access to the plant and to provide, if possible a dressing room for women employees and lockers for all if room can be found in the building for these improvements.

A more determined group of workers this writer has never seen. They were not only determined that none of the striking employees should not go "scabbing" on the job, that no outside "scabs" should be employed, nor were they content with watching the entrance of employees. They were also determined that no stores should be moved from the plant to another factory to be worked by other employees. It was rumored that tobacco would be removed from the Vaughan plant to another plant to be stemmed, in order to save the Vaughan plant a suit for breach of contract. Assurances were immediately forthcoming from the Carrington-Michaux stemmers that any tobacco brought from the Vaughan plant to the Carrington-Michaux plant would be the signal for another walk-out there as an expression of sympathy with the Vaughan workers.

Men Keep All-night Vigil

A group of men on the picketing staff, in order to prevent the removal of any stores to another factory, kept on all-night vigil at the factory. Some of them went without sleep for more than 48 hours, when relief pickets were not available. Although these men and women exhibited a spirit of determination and courage seldom seen in these parts; although they were sincere in their purpose, believing that their cause was right and that right would prevail in the end, the strike was not marked by bitterness either on the part of employees or employer. It was one of the most orderly and one of the most determined groups of striking workers this writer has ever seen. It was also one of the happiest.

They Sing as Only Negroes Can

Throughout the strike, the striking workers congregated across the street from the plant when they were not congregated in Leigh Street M. E. Church, which church was used as strike headquarters; sang as only Negro workers can sing. One of the more touching of the songs by the striking workers was a hymn composed by one of the organizers to the tune of "I Shall Not Be Moved." To this tune they sang "We Shall Not Be Moved," bringing in words such as "We Want Better Wages," "We Want a Better Entrance," "We Are Tired of Boiler Water," etc., then singing the refrain "We Shall Not Be Moved." It was really an inspiring experience. A group of black workers 460 strong, in defiance of custom and tradition, encircling the plant of their employer singing with a gusto born of courage and determination at the very top of their voices, "We Want Better Wages." What a picture to behold, what a soul-stirring sight!

Leigh Street Church to the Rescue

Leigh Street M. E. Church, pastored by the Rev. C. E. Queen, was the only church that would come to the rescue of the striking workers, either in this or in previous crisises. Other churches have been contacted by the organizing crew without success. The manly stand taken by the Rev. Queen was not only highly appreciated by the organizers but even the workers themselves demonstrated on Monday evening that they were not void of gratitude as some might believe. At the conclusion of the strike meeting on Monday, after the minister had been highly lauded for his courageous and humanitarian stand by Josephus Simpson, as the pastor arose to make brief remarks to the assembled throng, like a bolt from the blue, one woman started the "ball rolling" by marching to the table and placing a small offering thereon, the others following suit. Out of their poverty and distress, in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, these people gave this man who was so full of the humanitarian spirit that he opened his heart and his church to them a liberal collection. This was a real "free will" offering—an expression of gratitude out of full hearts.

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All Tobacco Workers Cast Lot With CIO

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A delegation of twelve union representatives visited Washington on Monday to meet with Mr. John Brophy, director of the CIO, and Mr. Smethurst, secretary to John L. Lewis, to discuss the entry of the union into the CIO. Mr. Smethurst stated that "workers of the country are making history and those who come in as charter members, that is those who participate in the initial stage of our development, will go down in history as having made a major contribution to the advancement of humanity. We are glad to see the Negro workers in Richmond organizing and discussing with us their problems." Mr. John Brophy pledged the support of the CIO to the tobacco drive.

The trip to Washington saw the appointment of C. C. Alston as a field representative of the CIO.

Further developments along the labor front in Richmond saw the continuation of the six-day old strike being conducted by the union against the Tobacco By-Product Chemical Company. The union is asking for a straight ten cent increase on the hour for all employees of the company, and for a scientific job classification. Union leaders pointed out that the workers in the By-Product Company are highly skilled but that the company insist upon calling them ordinary workers and paying them accordingly. The strike leaders announced themselves prepared to stay out on strike indefinitely.

NEGRO, WHITE WORKERS JOIN IN VA. STRIKE

CIO Union Unites All Workers in Demand for More Pay

By Alexander Wright
(Special to the Daily Worker)

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MARCH TOGETHER

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But the greatest example of unity was when the white workers followed the Negroes to court and back to the hall where 16 joined the union and took cards to canvass all the remaining white strikers for as low as 15 to 20 cents an hour. The factory is one of the worst slave mills in Norfolk. It has been operating for over 40 years at wages. There will be a unity meeting Monday in support of the strikers. There will be representatives of the Non-Partisan Voters League, Socialist Party, Communist Party and union membership.

Pickets Wear Badges in Virginia

These two laundry workers are on picket duty on the grounds of the Williamsburg steam laundry, Norfolk, Va., one of three Peninsula laundries whose operations are affected by a strike of 130 Negro employees which started last week. They seek an increase in wages and improved working conditions. The pickets are shown with a badge to designate their function.

Strike May Spread To Two Cities

Recognition of Union, Wage Increase, Among Demands

TRIALS AUGUST 27

The sitdown strike at the Farmco Package Corporation on Monday afternoon which resulted in unlawful trespassing charges being lodged against 71 persons, may spread to two additional veneer companies in Portsmouth and Suffolk.

Organizers of the Box, Barrel and Veneer Workers Union, a C. I. O. (Committee for Industrial Organization) affiliate which called the strike, were responsible for the statement which was made Tuesday morning as the trespass charges against the 71 defendants were continued in Police Court to Friday, August 27.

In granting the continuance, Associate Police Justice Harry Kanter allowed a motion made by Walter L. Davis, and Ernest S. Merrill, defense counsel.

Marked by a complete absence of violence, the strike was called prematurely Monday afternoon soon after the employees returned from lunch. Strikers told Journal and Guide reporters that the strike was supposed to have been called on Thursday, but was set unexpectedly for Monday when company officials learned of the movement and had planned to close the plant Wednesday to avert it.

NO WHITES ARRESTED

Although several white employees were involved in the walkout, none were arrested when four squad cars and two patrol wagons swooped down on the plant shortly before five o'clock Monday afternoon in response to a complaint made by R. Forrest Fowler, assistant superintendent of the company.

Mr. Fowler said the management had held one conference with the C. I. O. union, but added that he thought the strikers' demands were "unreasonable." "We asked those who were on company property twice to leave peaceably," he said. "When they did not do so, the police were summoned," he was quoted as saying.

Demands of the strikers were outlined as: 35 cents per hour minimum for unskilled labor, and 50 cents for machine operators and other skilled labor. Strikers charged that the unskilled wage ranged from 15 to 17½ to 19½ cents an hour, while the skilled wage ranged as high as 20 and 22 cents.

Interviewed at the Second Precinct station soon after they were booked, one of the strikers said under the existing scale he was able to average about eleven or twelve dollars per week on the basis of a ten-hour day which he considered a high average. He placed the general weekly wage, under the existing conditions, as about eight dollars per week. This striker said he was married but had no children.

Among other demands of the union, he said, were an eight-hour working day and recognition of the union. Strikers also stated that their demands were presented to company officials about a month ago and were refused. Another meeting at which the terms were to be discussed was arranged but was never called, they said.

The organization movement was started more than two months ago, the Journal and Guide was informed. Several of the leaders in the movement have since been discharged, one of the strikers said. Andrew Minter, one of the men who presented the petition to company officials, was one of those.

Atotal of 175 colored employees hold membership in the union which has already received its charter, it was learned.

Of those arrested on the unlawful trespass charge, 57 were men and 13 women. The arresting officers who were in charge of Sergeant J. L. Relihan of the Second Precinct, were L. M. Commodore, J. C. Justice, W. H. Butler, H. L. Helvin, W. R. Singleton, T. L. Goodwin, H. G. Rodgers, T. L. Goodwin, H. G. Rogers and U. W. Parish.

The strikers had occupied the manufacturing company plant shortly after they returned from lunch, but had left the interior to sit down in an enclosure on company property formed by the plant, a fence, and one of its warehouses.

NAMES ENTERED LATER

Warrants for each of those taken into custody were signed by a justice of the peace as they entered the patrol wagons, and their names entered later. Five loads in all were taken to the Second Precinct station, according to Sergeant Relihan.

News of the strike spread like wildfire all over the city and large crowds soon gathered both at the plant and the Second Urecinct station.

THOSE ARRESTED

The list of those arrested on unlawful trespassing charges is as following: Raymond Bond, Harry Goodman, Willie Griffins, William Bond, Thurman Dowdy, Curtis Forbes, Fred Barnes, Edward Long, Aleck Moore, William Bazemore, Floyd Parker, Dexter Owens, Ezekiel Hodnett, Lonnie Sawyer, James Foreman, Clarence Parker, Albert Skinner, Wiley Camp, John Wallis, Frank Rodgers, Roosevelt Manly, George Ellis, Wiley Hendricks, Fred Williams, Ben. J. Daniels, Stephen Elliott, Jackson Blount, Melvin Mason, Wesley Samuel, George Wilson, Charles Armstrong, and Henry Freeman.

Catherine Holmes, Louvenia Carter, Rosa M. Bonner, Arline Brown, Pearl Speller, Addie Gibbs, Mazie Raby, Beatrice Bates, Mary Johnson, Lena Hort, Alethia Speller, Lillie Small, and Georgia Cherry.

Kelly Akers, Lewis Ridley, Douglas Gregory, Raymond Greene, Melvin McDonald, Wesley Lee, Willie Charity, Vernon Broughton, Russell Davenport, Solomon Griffin, Earl Webb, Russell Dean, Floyd Epps, Willis Poyner, Robert Wilson, Robert Bailey, Henry Norwood, and Freeman White.

Chas. Gatling, William Beamon, Wesley Moore, Moses King, Jack Smith, William Butts, Irvin Norwood, and Isaiah Miller.

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Labor - 1937
Unions, Strikes, etc.

NEGRO, WHITE UNITE IN STRIKE IN NORFOLK, VA.

Sitdown Is Solid Despite Arrest of 72 Negroes — CIO, AFL Join Hands

NORFOLK, Va., Aug. 23.—The workers of the M. F. G. Co., members of the Veneer Box and Barrel Workers' Union, C. I. O., began their strike at a sit-down, the first of its kind in this Southern city, with complete solidarity between the Negro and white workers.

Now in its second week, the strike has kept the plant closed despite the arrest of 72 strikers.

The sit-down was started by the Negro workers but was soon joined by all the white workers in the plant. In the first attempt to break the solidarity of the workers, the company called upon police who arrested 72, all Negroes. The white workers, however, refused to be driven back to work and walked out of the plant 100 per cent.

The arrests developed still greater solidarity among the workers. A Negro member of an A. F. of L. union gave a property bond to bail out the C. I. O. members. A white business man put up the remainder of the needed bail. At the police court still more unity was displayed next morning when a Negro and a white lawyer appeared to defend the strikers.

But the greatest example of unity was when the white workers followed their fellow workers to court and back to the hall, where 16 joined the union and took cards to canvass all the remaining white strikers for union membership.

The strike committee is composed of white and Negro workers. Mrs. Leon Jarvis, colored, is chairman of the committee. Although 80 per cent of the workers are men, she was elected unanimously.

The factory is one of the worst slave mills in Norfolk. It has been operating for over 40 years at wages as low as 15 to 20 cents an hour for skilled labor, and at 20 and 22 cents for machine operators. There are no toilets or washrooms, no safety devices and no regular hours.

Dissolution Of Labor Union Traced To Affairs Of Local No. 978, I.L.A.

Representation Was Allowed By Central Labor Union

Dissolution of the Norfolk Central Labor Union by an order executed by E. H. Shave of Hampton, organizer for the American Federation of Labor and secretary of the State Federation, last week again capitulated into the spotlight the affairs of Local No. 978 International Longshoremen's Association.

The Central Labor Union will be reorganized at the regular meeting of the body on Monday night, August 23 at which time the circumstances surrounding the dissolution order, which was said to have come direct from William Green, A. F. of L. president in Washington, will be explained.

In the news spotlight periodically for the past several years, alleged representation in the Central Labor Union by Local 978 after the body had been suspended by the American Federation of Labor was given as one of the reasons for Mr. Shave's action. It was pointed out that this was a violation of the laws of the A. F. of L.

The status of delegates representing 12 other I. L. A. locals who withdrew from the Central body because of the presence of delegates of 978 was said to have been unimpaired by the dissolution order. Meanwhile the status of Hugh Brown, a delegate representing Local No. 1248, I. L. A. who was a member of the board of trustees of the Central Labor Union, remained somewhat in doubt.

Present officers of the Central body will have the right to seek re-election at the August 23 meeting, but there will be another slate of nominees placed before the meeting, Mr. Shave said.

The labor official, who was in Washington last week presumably to take the matter up with officials of the A. F. of L., was spokesman for laundry strikers in Newport News and Williamsburg several weeks ago when more than 100 walked out. The strikers were given until September 7 to reach an agreement with operators of the laundries.

E. L. Pickler, president of the C. L. U., charged that the trouble leading to the action purportedly taken by the A. F. of L. was the result of the election of C. L. U. officers held last December when he was opposed for president by O. C. Moore.

Mr. Moore was described as a delegate from Local No. 331, Carpenters which also withdrew its membership from the central body but which has since been reinstated. Mr. Pickler charged that votes were solicited for Mr. Moore on promises that if he were elected president, he would seat George W. Millner, third vice president of the International Longshoremen's Association.

REPLIES TO CHARGES

Mr. Pickler made the statement in reply to charges by Mr. Shave that participation in the affairs of the C. L. U. by locals suspended by the A. F. of L. was the cause of the dissolution of the body. "The facts are being laid before William Green, president of te A. F. of L., "Mr. Pickler said. "It is obvious that A. F. of L. headquarters have been imposed upon by some of Millner's friends."

The ousted C. L. U. head was expected to go to Washington last week with a delegation composed of C. M. Wheelock, secretary of the C. L. U.; W. C. Creekmore, O. I. Fleming, and A. G. Goodwin.

Just what effect the present state of affairs will have upon wage agreements now existing between locals of the I. L. A. and operators of deep sea vessels in this port, was not quite clear. The annual wage conference of the I. L. A. is expected to get under way soon in New York with Joseph P. Ryan, ILA president, in charge.

As a representative of the Atlantic Coast District Dr. Millner attends these conferences each year.

The affairs of Local No. 978 have been in and out of local courts for the past several years. Dissatisfied with conduct of the local's affairs in 1933, an insurgent faction forced a court controlled election in which Junius Batts was elected president of the local, and Rodgie Doles, secretary-treasurer, replacing David Alston and Eddie Green respectively. Mr. Millner was replaced as business manager.

Balloting at the election, which was supervised by S. Burnell Bragg, white attorney appointed by the late Judge Richard L. McIlwaine, and a deputy clerk of the Corporation Court, lasted all night.

The new officers charged misappropriation of the local's funds by Mr. Green and he was subsequently convicted of grand larceny in Corporation court and sentenced to a year in the State Penitentiary.

Reveal Facts At Annual Thanksgiving

White Speaker Warns Against Radical Labor Changes

Pointing out the new trend toward granting the rights of labor and the fact that the labor movement now has definitely captured public opinion, the Rev. W. Rush Loving, white, pastor of the Spurgeon Memorial Baptist Church, warned labor leaders Sunday that they must not expect to made radical changes over night.

The warning was made during the annual thanksgiving service of the fifteen locals of the International Longshoremen's Association at the Queen Street Baptist Church.

"Think through a situation before you take drastic action," Dr. Loving admonished his hearers.

LAUDS JESSE OWNES

The speaker, who is chairman of the Interracial Committee of the Virginia Baptist Association, during the course of his address named Jesse Owens, Paul Robeson and Joe Louis as worthy examples of the progress their race has made.

George W. Millner, third international president of the ILA, whose brief remarks preceeded those of Dr. Loving, cited the progress members of the ILA have made in this area.

He revealed that the ILA has increased its membership by 3,000 within the last three months with the organization drive still in progress.

"The Longshoremen,' Mr. Millner asserted, pointing a long finger at the audience, "represent all the accomplishments made in Norfolk during the last thirty years."

PAY INCREASED

The ILA through the years has succeeded in raising the pay of its members from 15c an hour to $1 an hour, plus overtime considerations, he said. The Workmen's Compensation Act which was passed in Virginia recently was also pointed to as one of the accomplishments of the ILA.

David Alston, chairman of the thanksgiving committee, presided.

Mrs. Maude Claiborne Holmes rendered a solo and other musical numbers were rendered by the choir. Other speakers were the Rev. P. P. Eaton, pastor of the Queen Street Baptist Church; Harrison Billups, S. J. Chadwick, and John W. Smith.

Farmco Strike Cases Heard In Police Court

2 Convicted of Assault And Destroying Private Property

The strike at the Farmco Package Corporation sponsored by the Box, Barrell and Veneer Workers Union, and affiliate of the CIO, although in progress for four weeks, reached Police Court for the second time last week.

Two men, alleged strikers, were convicted on Friday of charges of assault and destroying private property, while a charge of discharging firearms in the street, lodged against one of the company officials, was dismissed by Justice Clyde Jacob.

Melvin McDonald was fined $25 and costs for allegedly dropping a 100-pound block of cement from the top of a dry kiln to the hood of a truck used to transport workers imported by company officials in an attempt to break the strike. He appealed the fine. Leroy Boyd appealed from a 60-day jail sentence imposed for allegedly assaulting W. S. Sykes, white employee of the Farmco company.

Sykes testified that he was walking along with another employee of the plant when a man he identified as Boyd struck him from behind.

The charge of unlawfully discharging firearms in the street was made against Paul V. Fitchette, Jr., office manager. The charges were brought by Clarence O. Brown, CIO organizer, as the result of a disturbance on Thursday afternoon which resulted in an emergency call for four automobile loads of policemen armed with riot guns.

The accused office manager said he fired a revolver into the ground only when he was surrounded by about 200 men after being backed up against the office building. He said he ran out of the office with the weapon when the crowd began to throw bricks at an automobile driven by T. W. Rountree, white employee.

Col. James Mann defended the office manager and prosecuted McDonald and Boyd who were defended by Ernest S. Merrill.

Officers Say Two Races Must Be Separated

Fifty of Original 300 Stay For Speeches When Appeal Wins

Radio police officers, quoting the city's "move on" ordinance and an hitherto unknown law which, the officers charged, forbid the assemblage of white and colored people together in an open air meeting, late Wednesday afternoon broke up the scheduled meeting of workers now striking against the Farmco Packaging Corporation.

The officers warned the assembled workers that the meeting would be permitted only on the condition that the white people assemble at a separate place from the colored.

After an appeal had been made to Col. Charles B. Portlock, director of public safety, CIO organizers, the officers permitted the meeting to be held.

The committee pointed out that the meeting was being held on private property and therefore not subject to the "move on" ordinance.

About fifty of the more than 300 employees out on strike remained to hear the speakers. Few of those who had earlier been driven away from the vacant lot at Corprew and Sheldon Streets returned.

Mont Crum and Ray Thompson, white CIO organizers for the local district, told the workers that operators of the Farmco plant had violated two federal laws, and that Department of Justice operatives had already notified their intention of investigating the situation.

The organizers charged that the Wagner Act, forbidding the discharge of employees because of union activity, had been disregarded by the corporation, and that since the workers had gone out on strike, the company had violated the Byrnes Act by importing "scab" workers from another state to "break the strike."

Alexander Wright, speaking as a representative of the Marine Workers unit of the CIO, urged the workers of both races to stick together, if they expected to win their demand for higher wages and better working conditions.

Clarence O. Brown, representing the American Civil Liberties Committee, also urged the strikers to ignore appeals to racial prejudice and stand together to win their demands.

The Rev. Herbert S. Carrington served as acting chairman at the meeting.

CIO Organizer Speaks To City Beauticians

Alexander Wright, organizer for the CIO, spoke to the Norfolk Beauticians Association at their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night, Dec. 7. Mr. Wright told the beauticians of the advantages of having their operators organize.

Twenty-four registered beauticians were present at this meeting. Among other business discussed was a plan for the regulation of prices among the different shops. This plan was tabled until the next meeting, due to the unstabilized economic condition at present.

The beauticians were also urged to register so that they will be able to vote when political problems arise which affect them.

The second Sunday in January has been designated as a special religious day for the beauticians. They will hear the Rev. R. H. Bowling at a special service in the evening at First Baptist Church. A member of the license board will also appear on the program.

The beauticians have planned an extensive advertising campaign for the next two months. Watch the Guide for their first advertisement.

Labor – 1937
Unions, Strikes, etc.

Virginia
6

Carpenters, Joiners Withdraw From CLU

Journal Guide

Action Similar To That Of Longshoremen

2-20-37

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Formal withdrawal action was taken by the carpenters and joiners Friday night and severed relations with the Central labor body which had existed for 25 years. The action was taken "after long and careful consideration," according to a statement made by O. C. Moore, secretary of the carpenters union.

The group recently filed with the American Federation of Labor a protest against the manner inwhich officers of the Central body were elected.

It was charged that members were permitted to vote who were not entitled to a ballot under an old law of the central group which had been in effect for many years. The A. F. L. however ruled that the elections were legal.

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Working Conditions To Be Improved By Factory

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Journal Guide

The main purpose of the strike was to get more pay. The workers were receiving 15 and 25 cents per hour. They asked for an increase of 10 per cent per hour. They were given 20 and 30 cents per hour, with a promise of the other five within sixty days.

WIN OTHER CONCESSIONS

4-24-37

Other concessions made in the agreement were clean toilets, cloak rooms, better dust protection, ventilation and face masks, investigation of Child Labor Law by department of labor, recognition of union which was organized by all workers in the plant Monday. Burley hand stemmers in the plant were being given 5 to 7 cents per pound. They received a raise of 1 cent per pound.

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STRIKERS ORDERLY

Never a more orderly group of workers gathered than those who nestled around each other on the plant yard. When it was announced that a compromise had been made and work would be resumed Tuesday morning, the workers seemingly took on new life and rejoiced.

Without any warning to officials and without any meetings, about high noon Friday the workers went on strike. They informed the officials that until an increase in pay was given, work at the plant would be at a standstill.

Early Monday morning more than 250 persons milled orderly around the factory yard. Several workers appeared to be quite unconcerned about the outcome, while others expressed themselves as being in discord with the strikers, but dare not enter the bdilding. At one time three women ventured to enter the door of the employees and were admonished to keep out.

ORGANIZE UNION

Columbus Alston, field organizer for the Southern Youth Congress, met with the workers Monday and organized them into a union. Mr. Alston reported that he had been negotiating with workers and officials since late Friday afternoon. The 200 or more workers seemed lost as they gathered at the plant Monday morning determined that no work be done until their demands be met.

Led by Mr. Alston, more than 150 of the strikers gathered into a hall near Petersburg Pike and held a quiet meeting at which time they were organized. Striking statements were made in the meeting as workers laid their grievances before the body. They told of how they had to work long hours and were not allowed to raise the windows, although the factory was steaming hot.

Seated in the audience was a number of youths who appeared to be under the age of 16. It was reported to the Guide that several persons under that age were employed in the plant. One girl who said she was 17 years of age, told how she suffered under the heat, but was not allowed to ventilate the room. She said that she started working at the plant when she finished high school in '34 and had never received more han 15 cents per hour. She told how she was not able to keep up her appearance on the small salary she was making. Several folk displayed pay envelopes to prove that they received as low as $4 per week for their work.

New York

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After the workers had organized and agreed upon what they wanted, they returned to the plant to confer with the officials. By tha time Mr. Kruck, was on the scene to speak for the firm. He recognized the committee and invited them in. In a secret conference, he heard the grievances of the workers and said that he would see what could be done about conditions.

At this hearing the committee gave Mr. Kruck a full report of conditions in the plant. Miss Cora Born, a member of the committee, said that she was working for $4.00 per week. She produced her last week's pay envelope to show that she drew $4.42. She said her insurance cost $2 per week and she was paying $2.50 for room rent. Out of this she had to pay car fare and live. Mr. Kruck admitted he did not see how she made it.

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Afro-American

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In addition, the strikers formed a tobacco workers' union, being assisted in its organization by C. C. Alston, an executive of the Southern Youth Conference; Josephus Simpson, local newsman; and J. Byron Hopkins, Jr., NAACP attorney.

New Union Officers

Officers of the union are: John Shaw, president; Mildred Hansley, secretary, and Levy Hansley, treasurer. The committee which negotiated with the management of the stemmery included: William Collier, Mrs. Cora Brown, Mildred Hansley, and John Shaw.

Workers in the Carrington and Michaux Stemmery received from $3-$7 weekly, it was revealed during the strike, participated in by the entire working personnel, all colored.

Closing Threatened

At the beginning of the sit-down, W. W. Michaux, Jr., vice-president and manager of the plant, is reported to have told police:

"These workers are not on strike. They have been fired, every one of them. This plant will close and will stay closed until we see fit to reopen it. And when it is reopened, only those employees satisfactory to us will be rehired."

The wage scale of these to-strippers, declared the employees as- paid five cents a pound for stripping the tobacco leaves. Their of a wage check of food, clothing, demand was for an increase of come. two cents a pound. It is possible e Was $6.07 to strip thirty pounds a day, o said he was a managers say, but employees incharge of women sist that this is seldom done. ed that he was **300 More Offer Demands** gh to live on and While the difficulties were be- the larger checks ing ironed out in one plant, it is pany—$6.07. learned that 300 stemmers of the were formerly I. N. Vaughan Company on S.

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Tenth Street have organized and will walk out unless their demands for pay increases and shorter hours are met.

Negotiations are under way and a peaceful solution of the situation is expected to be settled by the week-end, the committee on the organization of the local stemmers has announced.

Both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. are reported to be making a bid for the inclusion of the organized tobacco workers in their unions. There are more than 3,000 such workers here.

THE TOBACCO WORKERS' STRIKE

Three hundred Negro tobacco workers quit their peonage jobs last Friday in a local plant. The Richmond PLANET believes they are better off loafing for nothing rather than working for nothing. The pay scale in this plant, proved by pay envelopes exhibited, is scandalous and repulsive to every fair-minded person.

Here are the facts which the manager of the affected plants dare challenge:

Sixty-five thousand stems are the operators' requirement for a day's work which nets the employee $1.20 per day or $6.00 per week for 5 days' work. These are machine workers or what is commonly known as skilled workers. Hand stemmers are paid 5c a pound. The crest capacity of such workers stemming 4-year-old Burley dried tobacco is 35 pounds a day, which yields a maximum earning capacity for such workers of $1.75 per day or $8.75 for a five-day-week's work.

Stemmers working with green tobacco, Ga. Leaf, cannot earn in this plant, with all their finesse and ingenuity, more than 56 cents a day or $2.80 per 5-day-week.

These starvation wages are further reduced by a compulsory 3-week's layoff period, prior to every holiday and a possible three months' layoff each year pending an invoice of the 4-year-old Burley cured tobacco.

The highest wage scale for these Negro workers is $10 a week, provided they work five days which is purely optional with the boss whether the week carries 2 days or five days.

And this is Richmond. Why lose time discussing health and crime statistics and inter-racial relations? Why worry about being decent, when such indecency apparently prevails?

Why acclaim the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on the Wagner Labor Relations Act, when the manger of such a sweatshop can boast that he will keep the plant idle until the agitators are disposed of and until this shameless exploitation and peonage are given the right of way.

This newspaper does not believe in either "sit down" or "sit in" strikes. In the instant case, however, we confess we are bewildered in making a decision as to whether or not the ends do not justify the means.

Negro Tobacco Stemmers Begin Richmond Strike

(Special to the Daily Worker)

RICHMOND, Va., May 6.—Four hundred and fifty Negro tobacco stemmers of the Vaughn Tobacco Co. went on strike today after negotiations broke off.

The strikers are members of a newly-organized union formed through the efforts of Columbus Alston, a leader of the Southern Negro Youth Conference.

The CIO is assisting the strikers due to the failure of the International Cigarmakers Union to enter the situation.

Strike At Aberdeen Project Is Cut Short; Hod Carriers Return After Pay Increase

Wage Is Hiked From 30 To 42 Cents Per Hour

Journal and Guide Bureau

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The twenty-five hod carriers employed on the Aberdeen Resettlement project, who walked out in a body pending an increase in pay on Thursday, April 1, returned to work on Monday after Resettlement Administration and WPA officials in Washington and Richmond conceded their argument for the increase.

The men were getting 55 cents per hour which was cut to 30 cents prior to the Christmas holidays. Failure to restore the cut within a stated period, as promised by the officials, precipitated the walk-out. The men left the job during the lunch hour on April 1, and stayed away over the weekend.

Nelson H. Cruickshank, State Labor Relations director of the Resettlement Administration, J. T. Boner, district director of the WPA, and Calvin C. Tennis, local WPA director, held a conference here Friday, April 2, when quick steps were taken to halt the strike. WPA officials joined in the investigation because that agency fixes the wage scale.

The men were given an increase in salary of 12 cents per hour, making the new hourly rate 42 cents. The hod carriers were represented at the conference by a committee of three of their own group. The strike did not tie up operations on the project as was first reported. It was orderly and without demonstration.

Race Relations Ignored At Va. Labor Meeting

(Special to Journal and Guide)

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Twelve Negro longshoremen from the port of Hampton Roads were delegates to the 42nd annual convention of the Virginia Federation of Labor which held a two-day session at the Virginian Hotel Monday and Tuesday of last week. They were accorded equal privileges and accommodations with the other 150 odd delegates.

Convention officials and delegates were so busy with problems and entanglements growing out of the split in labor's ranks as a result of the establishment and activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization led by the rebel, John L. Lewis, of the miners' union that no attention whatever was given to race relations in Virginia's labor movement.

Among the many resolutions passed were the following: one calling for the enactment of an 8-hour day for women instead of the present 50-year old 10-hour law; the granting of a minimum wage to women who have no guaranteed salary from "tip-supported" jobs; enactment of a state Wagner bill for Virginia; ratification by Virginia of the child labor amendment to the constitution; the adoption by the state of President Roosevelt's social security plan; and the enactment of an old age assistance law by the 1938 legislature.

While the Negro delegates took no part in the discussions on the CIO riff, they voted, it is reported, with other convention delegates in favor of the AFL's stand against the CIO.

Labor—1937

Unions, Strikes, etc.

Wisconsin.

CIO MOVES JIM CROW HALL

Union

Milwaukee —(CNA)— Meetings of the Milwaukee County Industrial Union Council, central C. I. O. body, were last week moved from Pythian Castle Hall because of discrimination against Negro delegates.

1937

The council voted unanimously to abandon the hall after a Negro delegate was charged 50 cents for a glass of beer at the bar in the hall. Gunnar Mikelson, Wisconsin C. I. O director, stated that white delegates were charged only five cents for beer and that a committee investigating the incident found the hall had a fixed rule against Negroes drinking at the bar.

Cincinnati Ohio

When the manager refused to rescind the ruling, the delegates voted to change their meeting place